35c

The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Difference Between Just Fishing and Catching Fish!

JULY 8th, 1976, ISSUE No. 25

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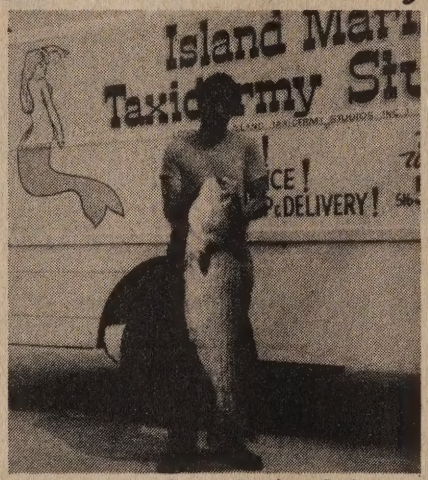

Dick Mele of the Empire Striper Club caught this 54 lb. 8 oz. striper in the Rockaway surf on a live bunker and is leading the Island Taxidermy Big Fish Contest so far.

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#1
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#3—Walter Estes, 244 lbs., Bayshore

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#3—Dr. Richard S. Blum, 34 lbs. 4 oz., E. Hills

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The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Difference Between Just Fishing and Catching Fish!

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Huntington bass pro Rick Hawkins hoists a cow into his Storm-Master boat. Photo by Dr. William A. Muller.

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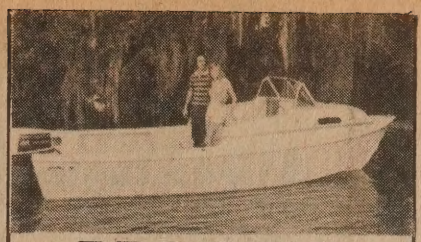

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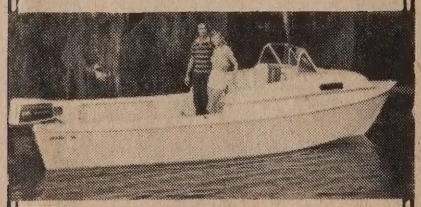

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LIF FISHING BOOKS

Recently I received the first three L.I.F. publications on trout, weakfish and fluke. I must say that they are everything I had hoped for and more! I wouldn't think of missing a single publication and hope that many more will follow. Enclosed please find my check for $3.45 to cover the cost of "Fishing for Flounder" and postage. **Art Warner**.

RODS AND REELS

I have just renewed my subscription to the L.I.F. for the 3rd year and wish to express my appreciation for the super job your magazine does. I have also just purchased "Fishing For Fluke" and "Fishing For Weakfish" and have read them cover to cover with great interest. Keep up the good work.

In addition to thanking you for your excellent publications, I would also like to ask you for some advice. I am about to make, what for me, will be a fairly substantial purchase and before I do I seek your advice as a professional fisherman.

Could you kindly send me the names and model numbers of a rod and reel of good to excellent quality that you feel would be best for me. I am into spending most of my time fishing the shores along the Fire Island Inlet, the Captree Beaches and L.I. Sound along Miller Place. I how have a 7' light action Garcia rod and Zerco spinning reel, but feel I now need something more substantial.

Again, I'm interested in a good quality rod and reel that I can use for casting from shore. I do mainly bottom bait fishing which often means 3 to 5 ounces of weight at the inlet and also will need an outfit that can handle 17 to 20 pound test and cast well. If you could send me some info on this I would feel confident in making my purchase. Awaiting your reply, **Bill Heimer, Centereach.**

It is very difficult to give you meaningful advice on this subject because I don't know you or your fishing habits. The decision on specific tackle usually takes considerable discussion and time. I would not recommend that you purchase a commercially prepared rod.

I think that the best suggestion I could make would be to direct you to your local tackle dealer. Discuss your needs with him. He's a pro. Then have him make up a rod for you. It will cost a few bucks more but the equipment will serve your needs perfectly and will last longer. Dr. Wm. A. Muller.

CONGER EELS

Recently myself and a friend went fishing off the "Starstream II" out of Freeport. The mates were extremely courteous and helpful; more so than any other boat I ever fished off of.

My question is this: We caught many conger eels and I would like to know if they are edible and is conger their genetic name? **Frank Tardalo, Brooklyn.**

Yes, some anglers eat conger eels. However, I cannot recommend them from first hand experience. Conger eels are from a number of species that belong to the group Congridae. Dr. Wm. A. Muller.

FISHING LINE

I am a subscriber to the Long Island Fisherman and I would like to ask you a question if you don't mind. I read a lot of fishing magazines and there are a lot of fishing line advertisements. Some brands like Stren say that your fishing line should glow and other brands say that your line should be invisible. I would like to know which line is best for fluke, blackfish, bluefish and stripers. Thank you. **Mark Uvari, Brooklyn.**

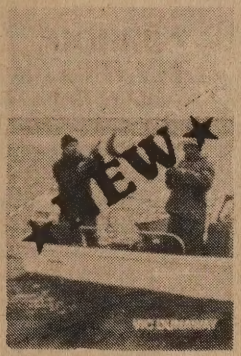
There are many excellent brands of line available. However, there is no such thing as one line for all types of fishing. Different places, conditions and circumstances require different strengths of line. Some lines are very tough, but become stiff in cold weather. Some lines are very supple but fray easily. Use a good quality line, have a wide selection of strengths on hand and adapt to changing conditions and seasons. A good suggestion is always: Look around and see what other fishermen are using successfully and try that. Dr. Wm. A. Muller.

CLUB NEWS

LIBBA CONVENTION

The Long Island Beach Buggy Association held it's annual conservation camp drawing and has selected the following Junior members to attend one week sessions at the DeBruce Conservation Camp, which is run by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. For the period August first thru August seventh, Steven Russel J-100 will attend. For the week of August eight to August fourteenth, Katherine Cahill J-124 will attend. The camp is eight miles from Livingston Manor near the Catskill Fish Hatchery.

The Fisherman Library



Modern Saltwater Fishing

by Vic Dunaway

Gives a step-by-step instruction in selecting and matching tackle, choosing baits and lures, rigging baits, leaders, and terminal tackle, and then going about the particular type of angling you're doing in an efficient and productive manner from the start. Procedures for trolling, drifting, and still fishing, inshore and offshore, from surf, pier, and bridge. 286 pages, 143 photos and diagrams.

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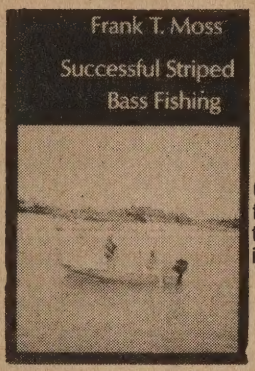

Successful Striped Bass Fishing

by Frank T. Moss

Covers every aspect of striped bass fishing, from light tackle to wire lining, from boats to the surf, with chapters by the leading experts in the sport. 208 pages, 190 illus.

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Successful Bluefishing

by Henry Lyman

"Salt Water Sportsman" publisher Hal Lyman presents a lifetime of experience and research fishing for blues. Thorough coverage is given to the life cycle of the blue and to every angling method. 128 pages, 75 illus.

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Best Ways To Catch More Fish

by Vlad Evanoff

A complete guide to better fishing, virtually all you need to know to match your catch with the experts. The emphasis is on method, and every kind of fishing is covered. From small-mouth bass to striped marlin, here are all the secrets—an encyclopedia of fishing knowledge. 228 pages, photos and diagrams.

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All About Surf Fishing

by Jack Fallon

How to fish all the ocean edges—in the high surf, from piers, bridges and jetties, on flats and along saltwater creeks. On hazards of the sport—water, weather, muddy bottoms, slippery rocks and insects. On lures, bait, and species of the area. 288 pages, 98 photos and diagrams.

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Sinker Bouncing

CRABBING

with Matt Ahern

If Will Rogers never met a man he didn't like, I can truthfully say I've never met a fisherman who didn't like to catch blue claw crabs. And by the same token, I've never met a fisherman who didn't like to eat them. Indeed, there are some I know who will go quite a bit out of their way for a chance at this gourmet's delight.

Henry Corti of Richmond Hill is one fisherman who will do just that. Henry is not only a busy mate aboard charter and party boats, but he's one of my best friends; we've fished together a good long time. When Henry talks fishing, I listen. Recently he wrote me a letter and one of the things he mentioned was blue claw crabs. If I got a good mess, he asked, would I let him know and he'd pick them up.

Now, there isn't anything out of the ordinary about that—until you know Henry will have to make a round trip of over 150 miles to pick up those crabs. Yes sir, Fishermen will certainly go out of their way for a mess of blue claws, and I don't blame them one bit.

One would think any creature in the sea with that kind of popularity would be pretty hard to come by. Fortunately, this is not so. Blue claw crabs are easy to catch, practically no expense is involved unless a skiff is rented for the day's fun.

Fishermen employ several methods to catch crabs and all will produce their share when used correctly.

Probably the most popular is the crab trap. These are best used when aboard a boat or when lowered from creek and canal banks, piers and wharves; anywhere deep water is immediately available. They don't work well when tossed from shore into shallow water for two reasons. Crabs like a generous amount of water overhead and you'll find the best depths are those where the bottom can't be seen. And, too, when tossed out from shore into shallow water, crab traps have a tendency to land on their side. When this happens, the crabs cannot enter. You'll really be defeating yourself if you use a crab trap this way.

All local tackle shops and hardware stores carry crab traps in stock and they cost but little. These traps come in several designs, the square and pyramid being the most popular. Which is best? I don't believe it really matters much. I've had good luck with both, but being from the old fashioned school, I sought of lean towards the older, square type. But I believe this is just nostalgia on my part.

Crab trap assembly takes but minutes and directions are always included with the package. One thing of importance I've never seen mentioned, though is that it's a good idea to tie an eight or ten ounce sinker inside the floor of the trap. This assures that the trap will land right side up.

Use a good quality line when making up your trap. Avoid cotton twine or clothes line. This will eventually weaken due to the corrosive action of salt water over the summer. It may look okay to use, but more crab traps are lost because of this than for any other reason. Use nylon line for long-lasting results. The kind used for Venetian blind cord is ideal.

Crabs are attracted to any kind of fish bait. If it has an odor, such as mossbunker or mackerel, so much the better. Frozen sand eels and frozen spearing make poor bait. They become too soft when thawed. The crabs will soon pull them apart and merrily chase after bits and pieces moving off with the current.

If whole fish are used, it is a good idea to score each side several times. This allows the oils and minute bits of meat to disperse in the current, drawing crabs to the main source of supply. Some fishermen tie the fish to the floor of the trap with string, but I don't think this is too great an idea. Crabs have powerful claws and they can easily pull the bait apart. It doesn't take long before the fisherman must retie the bait more securely. Use thin, fairly stiff wire and run it through the fish from head to tail and fasten securely. It will stay in one place for quite a while.

I don't think there is a better bait for a crab trap than large killies. These are the chunky ones about four inches long. When we were kids, we called them "bull" killies. Their one drawback, however, is that the crabs like them so well, they soon rip them apart. Therefore the fisherman must have a plentiful supply at hand. But they really produce and are worth using. Place in the trap by passing the wire in the mouth and out the tail, stringing them as one would pearls on a necklace.

As soon as the trap is felt to hit bottom, allow several feet of slack in the line so that the sides can open and lie flat out. There's no way of telling when crabs have entered, so it's pure guess work on your part. When you think you might have visitors, gather in the slack quickly and then pull hard on the main line and haul to the surface. After experience is gained, you will be able to feel the crabs scurrying over the bottom of the trap on the way up. This is always a thrill to the fisherman.

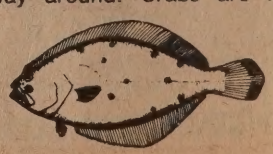
One of the nice things about crabbing is that is costs the fisherman but pennies to enjoy himself. This is certainly true when a killy ring is put to use. All that is required is a piece of fairly stiff wire about ten or twelve inches long and a two or three ounce sinker. This is quickly made and is best used from a boat, but like the trap can also be put to use off the sides of creek and canal banks, piers and wharves having suitable conditions.

As the name implies, killies are the best bait, but chunks of whole fish can be used. The sinker is put on first, centered, and then secured by twisting a loop in the wire. Killies are fed on the wire from each side until the wire is full. Fish chunks can also be placed on the wire from each end, pushing them tightly against the sinker loop. The ends are then looped and hooked together.

This method of crabbing is the closest to actual fishing. When the line is held between the fingers, crabs can easily be felt pulling at the bait. This is the signal to retrieve the line with one continuous uninterrupted flow of motion. Avoid jerky, quick movements of the line. Doing so is apt to alarm the crabs on the way up and they will let go in an instant when this is felt. Use a thin line, something similar to a drop line for ease of retrieve. Don't use mono. It will curl and snarl and you'll have the devil's own time getting the ring overboard.

Unlike the crab trap which can be used while engaged in other fishing, the killy ring calls for the fisherman's undivided attention. If allowed to lie on bottom without full concentration, the bait will soon be eaten, and few crabs will go in the bucket.

A net is always needed when using a killy ring. It is practically impossible to swing a crab aboard without it. Hold the net quietly a foot or two below the surface and lead the crab into it. Not the other way around. Crabs are highly



suspicious of sudden movement and will quickly let go. No matter how careful the fisherman is, though, a certain amount will drop off before the net is in the right position to do the most good. This is par for the course and adds spice to crabbing with a killy ring.

When using a net, you'll find netted crabs have the annoying habit of entangling and clinging tenaciously to the mesh, and they often prove a problem to remove. Just be careful if you have to separate the netting with your fingers. Crabs can and will give a pretty good nip with those lightning like claws at the slightest opportunity. You may be sure that should happen, you'll know why the blue claw deserves and gets a lot of healthy respect.

Some fishermen use nets made of stiff nylon mesh, or netting made of rust proof metal. I'll take my chances untangling the crab because I've seen too many crabs walk right out of those nets and back overboard.

As mentioned before, crabs are lightning fast, but if you want to see just how fast this is, use a long-handled net and try "scalping" from spilings and along the sides of bulkheads. You may soon be using language that could possibly blister the landscape. How can such a little thing as a blue claw crab outwit a big guy like you? I don't know. They've been outwitting me for years, too. I just accept it as one of those things and vow to do better the next time.

A boat, while not necessary, is a distant advantage for this type of crabbing. Best results are obtained with two fishermen aboard; one to pole or row along while the other crabs. Some fishermen may be content to man the boat continuously and let the other guy to all the netting, but I've never met one. Therefore, it is best to set a limit on how many crabs each fisherman is allowed before relinquishing his place to the other. It saves much wear and tear on friendships too.

Scalping often produces soft shell crabs, that gourmet's delight of delights. Often you'll see two crabs together, five or six inches below the surface, clutching the spiling or bulkhead. The highest one is the hard crab, defensively on guard to ward off the attacks of small fish who find the softie easy pickings at this time.

It will take a little experience, but eventually you'll get the knack of knowing just where to place the net before attempting to scoop. If half your attempts are successful, you can claim an expert's rating in crab scalping. It's lots of fun and one of the best ways to enjoy crabbing.

Occasionally, crabs can be seen during daylight hours, slowly swimming along, inches below the surface. Sometimes a good mess can be had this way with a long handled net. But most times you will find better results are obtained during the dark hours.

Use a Coleman type lamp and place on shore, or in the bow of a slowly drifting or anchored boat. Crabs are attracted to the bright light and can be reached with a long handled net when they swim into the light's radius. Pick out a warm, windless night for best results. Few crabs will be about on windy, cold nights and it doesn't pay to try for them under these conditions. Should they be moving about, the crabber will find it difficult to see them due to wave action.

Crabs do not migrate. Each area has it quota, therefore, if you net a crab with a mess of reddish-orange eggs clinging to its abdomen, return it, regardless of how large it might be. There may be as many as two million eggs in each "sponge" which does seem like a lot of crabs, I'll admit, but unfortunately they don't all mature. Each "sponge" crab that is kept means that many less crabs next year. Eventually, unthinking fishermen can deplete the area and when that happens, it's mighty slow crabbing for a long time. Conserve the crab!

If you have never gone crabbing before, I'm sure you'll like it. You may even enjoy eating them as much as my friend, Henry Corti. If you do, not only will you be in good company, you'll have lots of it.

PORT OF EGYPT MARINE'S 30th ANNIVERSARY/BICENTENNIAL SALE

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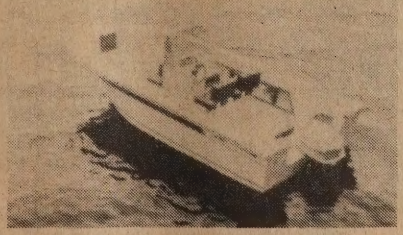
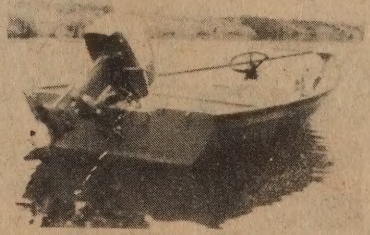

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Tile Fish Salad Charcoal Broiled Fish & Cuttyhunk Swordfish

Most of the readers of the Long Island Fisherman have no doubt read the interesting and excellent article by Dick Mermon entitled "Target of the Bullet—Tilefish" which appeared in the June 24th issue. As Dick commented in the story, "Returning to the Anchorage Marina the mates counted over ninety tilefish aboard, including the two which I had and the three of Whity Evans, Long Island Fisherman's 'Scampering Gourmet' columnist." To be completely honest, I had only caught two of these most delectable denizens of the very deep waters but I thank you Dick for being so generous. As to my being the "Scampering Gourmet"—I find it somewhat difficult to envision myself "Scampering" anywhere. I imagine Dick was thinking of the "Galloping Gourmet."

Although our fishing time was shortened by half on that trip because of the unfortunate demise of one of the fishermen aboard due to a heart attack and in spite of the lengthy trip to and from the Hudson Canyon, I most surely want to make the trip again and will do so in the near future. I dearly love the work of lifting these beautiful creatures from the 400 foot depths in which they are found. And, importantly, I dearly love to eat their sublime flesh. I'd been told that the tilefish tastes like lobster so I was determined to put it to the test in a lobster salad. Should you too, have the good fortune of having some tilefish meat, by all means try it in a Lobster Salad. I give you my word that you will go bananas about it. It does have the flavor of a lobster and in addition, the flesh has the consistency and texture of lobster meat.

Tilefish Salad

2 cups of fresh boiled tilefish meat
¼ cup lemon juice or French dressing
1 to 2 cups celery, cut fine
1 cup mayonnaise
Lettuce

After boiling the meat in slightly salted water for about 10 minutes, allow to cool. Then cut it into one half inch cubes. Sprinkle with the lemon juice or French Dressing and let it stand for one hour. Then mix it with celery. Add the mayonnaise. Serve it on lettuce. (This will serve 4 to 6 persons.) Note: Tilefish may be cooked in any imaginable way and is a "taste for the gods" no matter how you cook it.

Sing A Song of Seafood in Summer

For the following, I am indebted to the National Fisheries Service and I now quote what they have written.

Warm days are here again so keep the cooking outside where all the action is. Whether working in the garden, entertaining friends, or just relaxing, be part of the "fun in the sun" scene with a fifteen minute meal.

Perhaps you've been cutting down on fun meals or entertaining because of today's high food costs. If this is your problem it's high time you explored the sea food world. Many fishery products are still moderate in cost and among these are ready-to-heat-and-eat fish portions. These tender, serving size pieces of frozen fish fillets are 100% edible, always sold frozen, and may be purchased breaded or unbreaded, and either raw or partially cooked. (Or, you can certainly catch the fish yourself and have some fun doing so.!) Nothing could be simpler than ready-in-minutes fish portions whether you're planning a dinner on the patio, a picnic in the park, or a camping trip. Fish portions are right and ready, no muss—no fuss, just good eating, and they are well within even the most rigid food budgets.

Charcoal Broiled Fish with Choron Sauce is a great entree for special occasions. The Choron Sauce, a variation of the world-famous Bearnaise Sauce,

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elevates the practical, good-every-day fish portions into the gourmet class. Quickly cooked corn on the cob, flavorful broccoli or other in-season vegetables, bread or rolls, and iced tea or lemonade completes the feast.

The Recipe

12 fresh, frozen, raw breaded fish portions (2½ to 3 ounces each.)
1 cup oil
paprika
Choron Sauce

Dip each portion of breaded fish in oil and sprinkle with paprika. Place them in well-greased, hinged, wire grills; cook about 4 minutes from moderately hot coals for 5 to 7 minutes. Turn. Cook for 5 to 7 minutes longer or until fish flakes easily with a fork and are brown. Serve with Choron Sauce. (6 servings.)

Choron Sauce

½ cup butter or oleo
¼ cup water
4 egg yolks
2 tablespoons tarragon vinegar
1 tspn instant minced onion
1 tspn dried parsley flakes
¼ tspn salt
Dash cayenne
3 tablespoons tomato paste

Melt the butter or oleo in water in top of a double boiler over direct heat. Remove from heat. Add egg yolks. Beat until mixture almost doubles in volume. Stir in vinegar, onion, parsley, salt and cayenne. Cook over hot water for five minutes or until thick, stirring constantly. Remove from heat. Stir in tomato paste. Serve warm. (Makes approximately 2 cups of sauce.)

Cuttyhunk Swordfish Tokay

2 pounds swordfish steak, cut about 1 inch thick
⅓ cup butter or oleo, divided
1½ tablespoons flour
¼ tspn salt
1 tablespoon lemon juice
few drops Tobasco
¾ cup white Tokay wine
¾ cup whipping cream
Sugar
1 cup seeded, halved Tokay grapes

Brown the swordfish steak on both sides in ¼ cup of the butter or oleo. Lower heat to medium, cover. Cook for 15 minutes or until fish flakes easily with a fork but is still moist. Meanwhile, melt remaining butter; blend in flour, salt and Tobasco. Add the wine and cream; stir over low heat until smooth and thickened. Cook 5 minutes longer. Remove from heat; stir in lemon juice and add a little sugar to taste. Add grapes. Serve with swordfish using some as a garnish with additional clusters of grapes and sprigs of watercress. (Makes 6 servings.)

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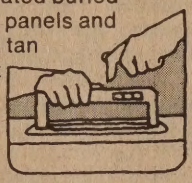

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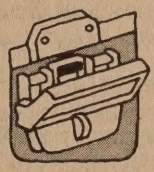

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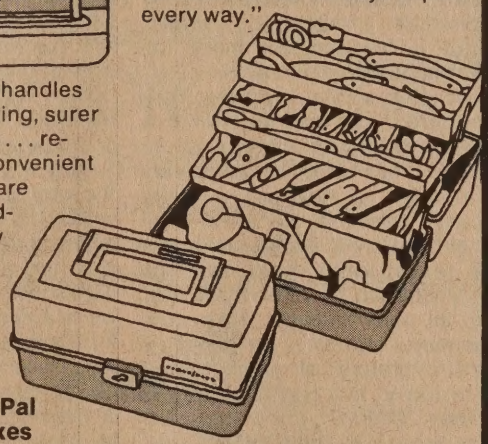

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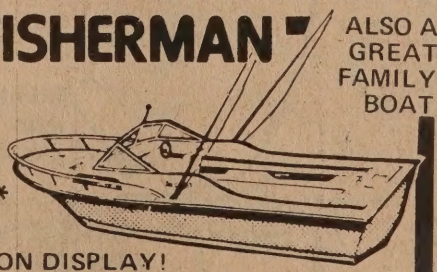

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Surf Side with Fred Schwab

Summer Baitfishing Along Montauk's North Side

Part I

In general, for the surf fishing clan, Montauk Point more than any other area on Long Island, inspires thoughts of blitz fishing, full stringers, and consequently, a successful session on the beach.

It's a fair assumption to say that most newcomers to the sport quickly develop a longing to fish the Montauk suds, especially if they happen to live within a few hours drive of the place. This desire is certainly understandable when one considers that the "Point" is mentioned in most books written on the subject of surf fishing. In addition, outdoor columns appearing in area newspapers, and several angling publications regularly publicize Montauk fishing, and what angler hasn't repeatedly seen pictures of surf fishermen beneath the famous picturesque Lighthouse, and along the adjacent rock-bound beaches?

Nowhere else within the New York Marine District, can one find such a combination of factors conducive to good fishing. It has both rocky and sandy shores, a variety of rips and currents, coves, bars, reefs and the contrast of usually calm-sheltered waters but a few minutes travel time from beaches continually exposed to the restless sea. Added to all this, Montauk is situated along the route "normally" followed by a variety of migratory bait and gamefish species, including that surf favorite, the striped bass (though you'd be hard pressed to prove it by the relatively poor showings in the Montauk surf during the past two years.)

Montauk's a fishy looking place, and while it often lives up to that appearance, it is also true that it has it's ups and downs.

During summer months, especially through much of July and August, and even into September, fishing for striped bass with artificials from Long island beaches, including Montauk can be mighty slow. Sure, there are exceptions! Guys willing to suffer through repeated fighless nights, jumping from place to place, "might" hit bass; at least they stand a "chance" of beating the odds. However, those willing to change over to bottom fishing, stand an even better chance of connecting.

During those summer doldrums, both the north and south side beaches at Montauk have areas which are liable to produce for the bait fisherman. In this article, we'll direct our attention to the quieter waters on the north side, and in particular the area between North Bar and Shagwong Point (see sketch.)

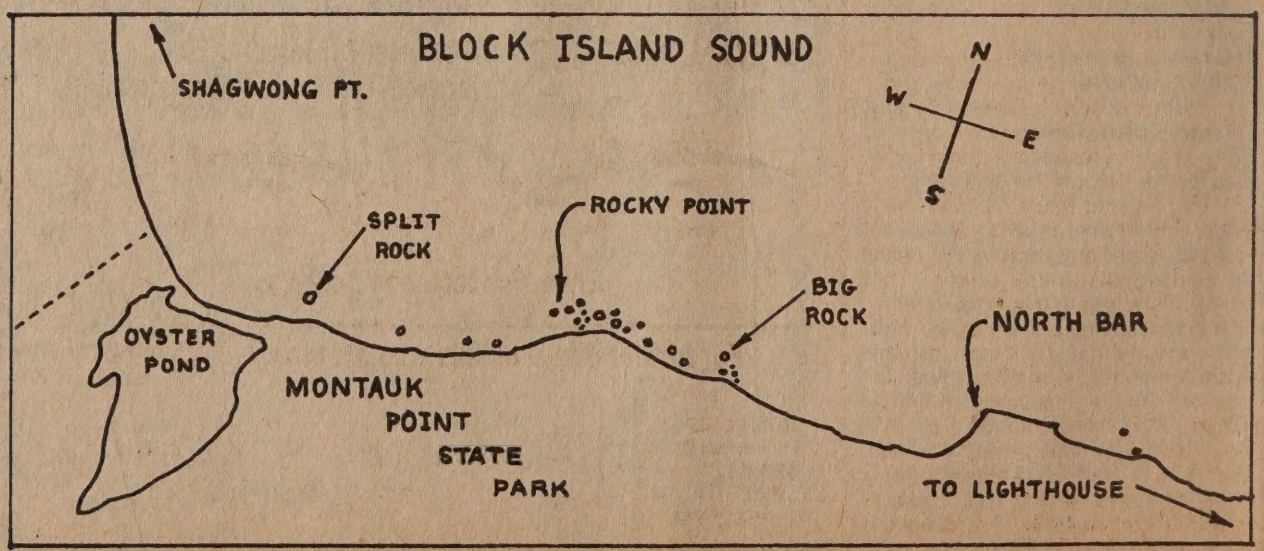
Now to avoid any misunderstandings, the kind of action normally encountered within the subject area, is by no means of blitz proportions nor can it be classified as highly consistent. There are nights when nary a bass is beached, and while a good-sized fish is a possibility, for the most part those which are taken are schoolies. It's simply an area in which the angler stands a better chance of catching a bass on bait when he would be throwing artificials along Montauk beaches during the summer, and a place to try if your patience with plugs is wearing thin. So if you have a favorite spot which produces for you during that time of year, don't go racing out to the "Point", and the subject area with high expectations.*

*Editors Note:

Fred has carefully but subtly made an excellent point about fishing, especially surf fishing. Fred catches a lot of very respectable fish, and he knows his techniques, and his skills are as sharp as a tack! But Freddy is a hard working relentless, tireless angler. I know, because I fish with him and he's tired me out on more than one occasion. The point is that when there is no blitz fishing, guys like Fred produce fish because they work their "tails" off!

The area being considered, covers roughly one and one half miles of beach lying entirely within the boundaries of the Montauk Point State Park. While it is accessible to those who don't mind a long walk, a beach vehicle is recommended. During the summer, fishing for striped bass is strictly a night time proposition, so whether you choose to park and walk, or ride the beach, securing a fisherman's permit for your vehicle will be necessary. These may be obtained from the toll booth at the entrance to the parking lot located near the Montauk Lighthouse.

When riding this stretch of beach, caution is advised, especially if you are not familiar with the area. In recent years erosion has narrowed the beach, forcing buggies to follow a track which in spots is uncomfortably close to the rocks, and in one location a slight but unstable



slope exists. As of this writing, your's truly hasn't checked the condition of the track this year, but if it's anything like last year, anyone with a wide, top-heavy camper type rig, or a vehicle with little clearance underneath, should use extreme caution.

While it is possible to pick-up bass at any location within this area, there are certain spots which time has proven to be more reliable. Also, one must contend with fishing among rocks and boulders which are present, in varying quantity, throughout the area. At several locations they are so numerous and scattered about in such a manner, that it is foolish to expect to beach a fish.

With respect to the eastern half, or that area between Rocky Point and North Bar (see diagram), small fish dominate and for some reason, in recent years the fishing along this section has fallen off considerably. One spot worth a try is located about midway along this stretch. Look for a huge rock which lies a good cast from shore. Cast from the beach either immediately to the left of the rock, or roughly one hundred yards to it's right. There are a cluster of rocks which make fishing bottom a tough proposition behind and just to the right of this big rock, they'll ruin your line.

The other half of this area seems to produce most consistently, and certainly is the most popular among the regulars who fish here. As to specific "spots", the section of beach adjacent to what is known as "Split Rock", is favored. However, this can become quite crowded at times. Situated some thousand yards or so to the east of Split Rock is Rocky Point, easily identified by the jumble of rocks and massive boulders scattered about. Some of these are visible even during high tide, with several located very close to the beach. Anywhere between these two locations can be productive and it is this half of the area under discussion, the western half, which produces the larger bass, with some fish in the twenties and an occasional thirty-plus.

A short distance west of Split Rock and on up to Shagwong Point does not "seem" to produce very many fish, at least it's not fished with any regularity.

It's sound advice for anyone going into this area for the first time to do so at low tide, during daylight hours. Survey the entire area noting where the larger rocks are situated, especially those lying well within casting distance. While it's desirable to fish close to the rocks, if you should happen to hang a decent bass it's almost a certainty that he'll make a run towards them and if he makes it, you'll lose the fish, tackle and yards of line. Plan where you are going to fish in advance, to avoid problems later on.

In Part II, we will discuss tackle, bait, and what seems to be the best times, tides, and most favorable conditions under which to fish this beach.

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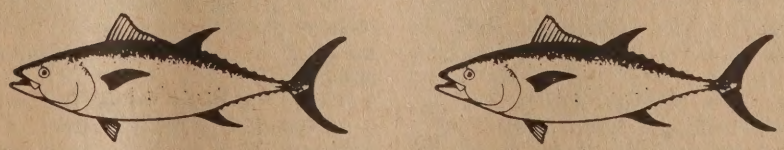

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THE BOTTOM LINE

with Scott Simons

The Science of Fluke Fishing Part V

Under most circumstances drifting is the preferred fishing technique for taking fluke. Basically, drifting is simply allowing the boat to be moved over the surface of the water by the forces of wind and current. When executed properly, drifting accomplishes three goals: it moves the bait at a natural speed, in a natural direction, and over a wide area of the bottom. The first order of business is to select the area to be drifted over that has a good potential for holding a population of fluke. Any one of the bottom formations discussed last week in part four of this series, like a slope, shoal, depression, channel, beach drop-off, inlet, etc., is a good place to start.

After the area for drifting has been selected, a practice drift should be made to determine the speed and direction the drift will take. Start by dropping a marker buoy on the part of the bottom formation that you wish to drift over, then position your boat at the point where you think the drift will move the boat close to the buoy. After the practice drift, adjust the starting point of the next drift to compensate for any error. That's the theory of how to drift in a nutshell...now let's look at the many things that can go wrong.

Ideally, a perfect drift must have two complimenting factors: correct speed and direction. Of PRIMARY IMPORTANCE is the DIRECTION OF THE DRIFT. The boat MUST be moving in the SAME DIRECTION as the MOVING CURRENT. The reason is simple, and I've said it many times before: small baitfish will never try to buck a moving current. They just don't have the strength or stamina to swim against the current and there isn't really any reason why they should. Therefore, BAITFISH ALWAYS SWIM DOWN-CURRENT. So down-current is the direction that fluke are used to seeing their meals coming from. They will lie facing into the current, waiting for baitfish swimming in the same direction as the moving current of water. If you happen to have a drift that is going against the direction of the moving water, your bait would approach the fluke from behind, more than likely scaring the hell out of 'em.

The speed that the boat travels is the second important factor of drifting. Ideally, the bait should be gliding over the bottom at the same speed or slightly faster than the moving current. A drift that is too slow may not trigger the predatory instincts of the fluke and arouse their curiosity. The boat also will not travel over very much of the bottom formation, so valuable time may be spent drifting over relatively unproductive areas. Drifting too fast has its disadvantages. The bait may be moving unnaturally and if the fluke are eating good they may not have the desire to chase it. A fast drift will also move the boat over a small bottom formation so quickly that the bait will only pass over the prime areas for a short span of time. You will also have to use excessive weight on your rig to keep the bait on the bottom, and this can hinder your ability to detect the soft pick up of a fluke.

Medium size open boats like Capt. Brad Glas's "Helen II" out of Montauk are excellent boats for fluking because of their superior drifting abilities.

The speed and direction of a drift will be determined by three factors: the hull design of the boat, wind direction and speed, and the speed and direction of the current. The fluke fisherman should know the drifting characteristics of his boat with just a little plain observation. Basically, a deep drafted boat like those with a deep-V or tri-hull configuration will be more effected by the forcing of the current than those of the wind, while boats with a shallow draft like those with a flat bottom or modified-V hull are more effected by the forces of the wind. It is up to the angler to know his vessel's drifting limitations and what to do to overcome them.

Naturally, you can't change the type of hull your boat has...but there are courses of action to take to neutralize the adverse effect it may have on drifting under certain conditions. For example, if your boat comes equipped with a full set of canvas, you can increase or decrease the effect of the force of the wind on your drifting speed by simply lowering or raising it. If you have an outboard or inboard/outboard, the force of the moving current can be cut down by lifting the lower unit out of the water so that the current has less effect on the speed of the drift. If you want to increase the force of the current to speed up the drift, you can use a sea anchor (or drogue) or even a bucket on a line attached to the bow.

The key to the effect that the forces of wind and current have on a drifting boat is their relative speeds and directions to each other. Ideally, you want a gentle to moderate wind of 10 to 15 knots an hour which is blowing in the same direction as the moving current. This combination will usually cause the boat to move in the same direction as the moving current at a slightly faster pace than the moving water...the bait will be moving over the bottom in a natural speed and direction which is the desired objective of drifting. The problems start when these two are either excessive or in opposed directions. If a strong wind and swift current are moving in the same direction the boat will drift much too fast for good

fishing. If a moderate breeze and current are moving in opposed directions, the boat will drift very slow or remain stationary, and the bait will remain in one spot without movement. If there is a strong wind blowing in the opposite direction of the current, the boat may even drift against the current, the worst type of drift you can have for fluking.

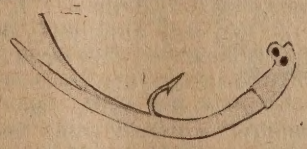
If you run into any of these adverse conditions, try modifying the speed and direction of the drift as previously described by altering the boat. But there will be many times that no matter what you try you just won't get a good drift. Then what do you do? Move to another location, naturally where the relationship of the wind and current is better for drifting. For example, suppose you are drifting over a slope that runs north and south, and a strong current is moving from east to west and there is also a 15 to 25 mph easterly wind. This would create an extremely fast drift, which isn't good for fluke fishing. When this happens, move to an area where a slope runs from east to west and the current moves from north to south or south to north, where the easterly wind's force will be neutralized somewhat by the current and you will drift across the slope at an angle at a moderate speed. This is easier to understand if you take a pad and pencil and sketch out the two scenarios.

Next question: how to you know what formation is the best under which wind/current conditions? It's not easy, and you aren't going to read about any short-cuts here. This is where the fisherman has to "pay his dues" by spending a lot of time fishing for fluke. For this reason, I always recommend to anglers that are just getting into fluke fishing to FISH IN ONE AREA. Don't try fluking in Moriches Bay one day, Jones Inlet the next and Montauk the next. If you move around too much you will never learn one area good enough to become a truly accomplished fluke fisherman. For example, as much as I know about fluke fishing at Montauk, I would be lost if I suddenly had to do my fishing in Moriches Bay and I'm sure that any local angler would easily outfish me. Because I just don't know where the bottom formations are in Moriches, how the currents run, what areas are best under what conditions, etc. So stick to one area and learn its characteristics well—don't become a weekend "gypsy" fisherman that tries to follow the fluke all over the Island.

Even fishing an area exclusively calls for keeping a log book to record information, unless you think you have total recall. Every time you fish a bottom formation, log in the book what the wind speed and direction was, current speed and direction, stage of the tide and current (first hour of incoming, last two hours of outgoing, etc.) Write down what you catch, even if it is nothing...negative information is also important and can be valuable. After a while, you will have a record of different areas to fish for fluke under different conditions. When wind and current directions are not good in one area, you can refer to the log book to find an area where they are more compatible.

Okay, so now we have reached a point where drifting conditions are perfect over a good bottom formation. You have a fluke or two on your first drift and want to make a second drift over the same area. Now what do you to make the same drift again? Either mark the spot with a marker buoy or take a range on stationary objects. To make a marker buoy is simple: just take a bleach bottle, colored anti-freeze plastic container or other object that will float and be visible. Using any type of cord, old mono line, string, etc. make it fast to the float and then wrap approximately 25 feet of line around it for depths of up to 10 feet, 50 feet of line for depths of up to 25 feet and 100 or more feet of line for depths of 50 or 60 feet. Use either an old sash weight or a couple of heavy sinkers for a weight to keep the buoy stationary on the spot where it is dropped.

The marker buoy serves as a stationary reference point to tell the angler where to begin and end the drift. It may be dropped at one of three moments: at the beginning of the drift, the end of the drift or at some point during mid-drift where the fish are taken. Personally, I prefer to drop a buoy over the side the second I hook up with a fish. Then at the end of the drift I just point the bow of my boat at the buoy then run past it in a straight line. Unless the wind or current conditions have changed, I will usually pass the buoy within 15 to 25 feet on successive drifts. There's an old saying about blackfishing—"If you aren't losing rigs, than you aren't blackfishing." The equivalent rule for fluke fishing is—"If you aren't using a marker buoy, you aren't fluking." It won't do you much good to locate a good bottom formation for fluke, have ideal conditions for drifting but be unable to locate the hotspot on subsequent drifts.



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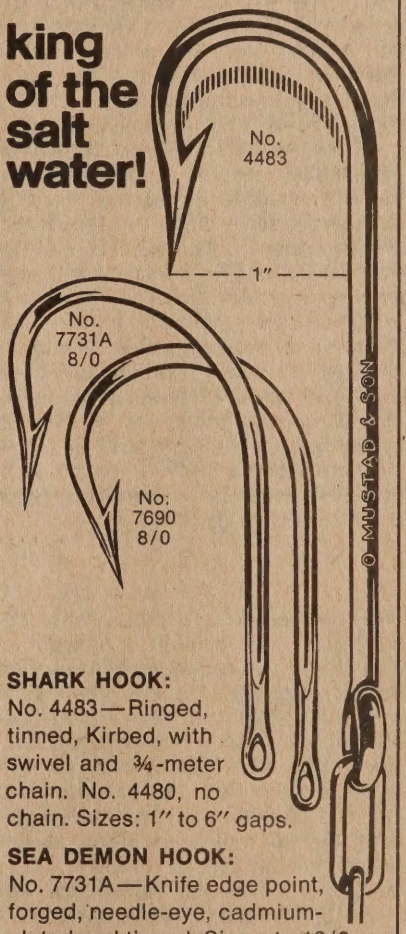

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CONSERVATION COMMENTS *by Al Ristori*

Anglers banging their heads against the wall as a result of this springs relatively poor striper fishing can take solace from the plight of their brethren in Florida. According to an article by Charles Keefer in the July issue of Florida Sportsman, stripers planted in Florida lakes have turned out to be uncooperative—feeding mostly at night and being as hard to catch as snook. As a result, the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commissioon has crossed a male striped bass with a female white bass and come up with a little battler known as the sunshine bass. They're stocking the new fish in lakes throughout the state that are overpopulated with gizzard shad and initial indications are that it is effective in keeping the shad populations down while not interfering with other game fish. The hybrid shows great potential as it grows to 13 inches in one year and 20 inches (3-4 pounds) in two. They figure it should hit 10 pounds in five years and reach a maximum of 15-20 lbs. eventually. Not bad for a fresh water fish! Anglers interested in Florida fishing may be interested in Florida Sportsman. It's available at $7.95 for 12 bi-monthly issues from Wickstrom Pub. Inc., 2701 South Bayshore Drive, Suite 501, Miami, Florida 33133.

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The proposed tuna regulations, described in this column a couple of months ago, survived almost intact from the final hearings. The one big change made was the limit of seven giants per boat per week, rather than three per day, after August 13th. Before that only one per day is permitted. I've already heard rumors that some fishermen are registering several boats in order to get around the regulations. Hopefully, the National Marine Fisheries Service will invalidate any permits issued under such false pretenses and preserve the maximum of fish for the greatest number of fishermen. The total catch quota is 2000 fish, with 150 of the giants being reserved for fishermen south of Cape Cod. If a few greedy individuals are able to circumvent the regulations and take more than their share, it will mean an earlier close to the season for all. Fortunately, the regulations do provide that giants can be tagged and released at any time, even during the closed season. Therefore, sportsmen will be able to fish a full season this year in any case. Those wishing to participate in this program should contact the Director, Southeast Fisheries Center, National Marine Fisheries Service, 75 Virginia Beach Drive, Miami, Florida 33149.

Any vessel which may want to land a tuna weighing in excess of 300 pounds this year must first obtain a free certificate from the Regional Director, NMFS, 14 Elm St, Gloucester, Mass. 01930. No certificates are required to fish for school tuna, but the limits of last year still apply. Each angler is permitted four tuna between 14 and 115 pounds per day with no seasonal limit. Leeway is provided in the daily bag whereby one fish can be less than 14 pounds and one over 115 pounds, but under 300 pounds. As more anglers are becoming aware of the critical problems facing the bluefin tuna, there has been greater cooperation with the regulations. There's quite a diversity of opinion as to whether these regulations were the best way to handle the situation, but the fact remains that something had to be done and imperfect regulations to preserve the species are better than simply allowing it to fade away year by year.

The recent crisis created by polluted waters touching Long Island beaches has left many anglers perplexed about the eating quality of local fish. Fortunately, there's no reason to worry about eating any finfish taken from our waters. The flesh of finfish isn't any more effected by the bacteria in the waters around it than is the flesh of animals effected by the bacteria in the air and on the ground. Of course, fish from unclean waters must be handled carefully to ensure that the high concentrations of bacteria in the entrails don't contaminate the flesh.

The situation with shellfish is quite different. Unlike finfish, they move little (if at all) and concentrate the comtaminents present in the water. Additionally, shellfish are usually eaten whole, rather than "cleaned," and to make matters worse, often in the raw state. Never eat shellfish from water's that aren't approved by the appropriate government agency, but don't worry about finfish—provided you handle them carefully. If the waters are particularly marginal, the fish should be skinned before cooking. Eating a raw fish wouldn't be a good idea under those circumstances and all internal organs (even the roe) should be discarded.

The greatest danger to fish flesh is that which we can't see—persistant chemicals that can be present even in what appears to be crystal clear waters. A previous column detailed the PCB problem that has resulted in the closing of the Hudson River to commercial fishing. As noted then, an occasional meal of even Hudson fish isn't likely to be of any harm. However, the question of just what constitutes harmful levels must be a top priority for both federal and state governments at this point.

What about the fish that don't taste quite right? Fish living in polluted waters frequently pick up the taste of those waters. While this lowers their acceptability as table fare, it doesn't necessarily mean that they're in any way harmful to you. Part of this problem can be overcome by filleting the fish and cutting out the dark meat in the center of the fillet. The oils are concentrated in that dark meat and, curing cooking, will impart a strong taste to the rest of the fish. The same precaution should also be taken when freezing fish. Even fresh bluefish that have been feeding in chum slicks for some time acquire a strange taste that can be pretty much eliminated by cutting away the dark meat. This procedure should be automatic with blues that aren't so fresh or are being frozen. Prepared in this fashion, even those that don't like "oily" fish frequently develop a taste for fresh bluefish. The same thing would apply to striped bass and other similar species taken from marginal waters.

Did You Know...

The Swordfish uses his broad, flat sword as a means of defense and procuring food. He stuns mackerel and other small fish with a powerful whack and swallows them. When threatened by man, they have been known to ram their sword through twelve inches of oak, jump into small boats, and have even sunk a few.

FISH HOOK HISTORY

BY FRED GUARDINEER

THE ORIGIN OF THE FISH HOOK IS CLOUDED IN OBSCURITY, BUT MANY EXAMPLES HAVE BEEN UNEARTHED BY ARCHEOLOGISTS. SHOWN BELOW ARE SOME HOOKS USED BY OUR PREHISTORIC AND LATTER DAY ANCESTORS WHO NO DOUBT GOT THE OFT-REPEATED WORD *"YOU SHOULD HAVE BEEN HERE YESTERDAY!"*

5000 YEARS OLD.

STONE AGE BONE HOOK...

...FOUND IN A CAVE IN NORWAY.

METAL HOOK FROM ITALY WHICH WAS BURIED WHEN THE CITY OF POMPEII WAS DESTROYED 1800 YEARS AGO BY THE VOLCANO VESUVIUS.

BONE HOOK FROM OLD INDIAN CAVE IN WYOMING.

AGE UNKNOWN

BRONZE FISH HOOK DESIGNED BY THE ANCIENT GREEKS.

RUSSIAN FISH HOOKS EVOLVED BY THE SLAVIC TRIBES.

FRENCH FISHERMEN USE A SHARPENED BAITED NEEDLE.

A DOUBLE BARBED HOOK FOUND IN SWISS LAKES.

GORGE FISH HOOK IN USE ABOUT 3800 BC.

PRE-HISTORIC AMERICAN INDIAN HOOKS.

BONE HOOK 2500 BC.

BARBED BONE FISH HOOK ABOUT 1100 - 1200 AD

PRIMITIVE HALIBUT HOOK USED BY NORTH AMERICAN INDIANS - 1200 AD.

NOTCHED STONE FOR SINKING NETS BY...

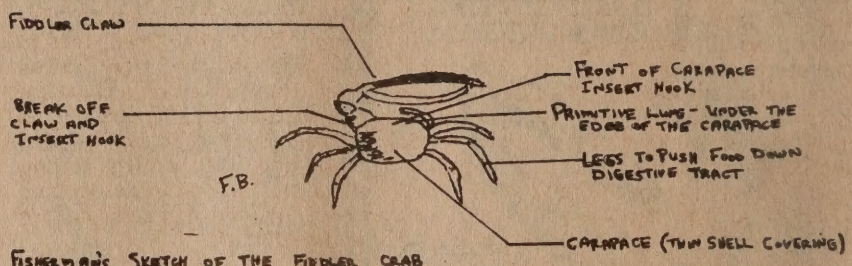
...AMERICAN INDIANS OF LONG ISLAND, NEW JERSEY & NEW ENGLAND

A CURVED HALIBUT HOOK USED BY INDIANS OF THE...

...PACIFIC NORTH-WEST WHO IMPROVED THE HOOK BY CURVING IT. ALSO USED BY THE ALASKAN INDIANS AND ALEUTS.

NATURAL BAITS— Fiddler of the Salt Marshes

by Frank Berrafato


FIDDLER CLAW
BREAK OFF CLAW AND INSERT HOOK
F.B.
FRONT OF CARAPACE INSERT HOOK
PRIMITIVE LUNG - UNDER THE EDGE OF THE CARAPACE
LEGS TO PUSH FOOD DOWN DIGESTIVE TRACT
CARAPACE (THIN SHELL COVERING)

FISHERMAN'S SKETCH OF THE FIDDLER CRAB

Any Long Island angler who has fished for blackfish is probably familiar with a small, spider like creature which makes its home among the coastal salt marshes and mud banks. The fiddler crab, if used and presented properly, is a valued natural bait. Fiddlers are also important because they are permanent inhabitants of the salt marshes. An understanding of the fiddler's lifestyle and habits will give one a better overall view of the salt marshes, the tiny creatures which live among the mudpacked weeds and grass, and the predatory fish which depend upon them.

The mud fiddler, **Uca pugnaz**, is common to Long Island marshes. Usually steel blue in color, although the shadings can vary according to locale, he measures at maximum one inch across the carapace. But the mud fiddler is not favored by most anglers. Perhaps it is because not many fishermen want to take the trouble to gather them in the mud and grassy banks. Most baitshops stock the china-back or sand fiddler, **Uca pugiliator**, a species common on the southern range, particularly in the Florida marshes. The china-back fiddler is slightly larger than the mud fiddler, reaching a maximum of 1¼ inches across the carapace. The latin terms **pugiliator** and **pugnax** refer to the fighting character of the one-claw males.

Fiddlers are true marsh animals, residents of the changing intertidal space of grassy creek banks and mud flats. At low tide they will wander about the flats in search of food or mates.

Like many of the other inhabitants of these banks and flats, the fiddlers are burrowers. Under the naked surface of the mud flats, the environment is relatively stable, sheltered from the extremes of variation.

But nature has provided a check. The incoming tidal stage is a sign or real danger for these crabs, for the medium is now supplied for hungry, predatory fish, ready to pounce on any fiddler who has not properly secluded himself underground.

Both the sand and mud fiddlers dig holes into the surfaces which they inhabit. Naturally, sand has a soft consistency. The sand fiddler, who has dug out his hole during the low tidal stage, must return inside his burrow before the water rises and closes the opening. If he is trapped outside, he is in serious trouble. However, if the fiddler is fortunate enough to be inside the burrow and closes the door before the water rises, the trapped air will hold up the walls and the fiddler will find himself in a little air-filled chamber, hidden from cruising predators above him.

FIDDLER IN NATURAL SURROUNDINGS

The mud fiddler lacks this instinct to protect himself by entering the hole before the water rises. The walls are cohesive enough not to collapse, and he does not have to copy the behavior of the sand fiddler. The water pours into the entrance which remains open throughout the high tide. As the water starts to inch up, the fiddler retreats to his burrow. Any individual who tries to chance his habitation gets trapped at the surface and is promptly eaten.

The fiddler crab has evolved several mechanisms and structures which fit him for marsh life. Knowledge of these structures will enable the fishermen to properly use, present and even store this natural bait. Of prime importance is the primitive lung. While other crabs posess gills, the fiddler has developed a highly vascularized bronchial cavity, which if moist, can keep the fiddler alive for several days when he is not in water.

Placing small clumps of wet or even damp seaweed will enable the angler to keep a live supply of fiddlers for days.

Temperature is also of prime importance. The fiddler can compensate for changes in temperature—to a certain extent. A temperature range of 58 to 80 degrees will enable them to keep at the same level of activity. At temperatures above 80 degrees, their metabolism speeds up rapidly, and at slightly higher temperatures, they die.

If the water temperature drops below 58 degrees, the fiddler will slow down very rapidly and quickly go into a passive existance. When temperatures fall into these low limits, they spend their time in the burrows where they are safe from cruising predators while they are in this slow moving state. Many baitshops store their fiddlers in very cool places, even in the refrigerator, and as a result, they are slowed down to such an extent that the angler will believe that his newly purchased bait is dead. But once the fiddlers are placed in the sun, the change in temperature will immediately liven up most of them.

The fiddler lacks a mouth. Instead, he has six modified legs which cover the opening to the digestive tract. The legs manipulate the food so that only the fine portion is swallowed, while the larger portions gradually accumulate in the sorting chamber. These larger portions are eventually spit into a claw and put back onto the marsh surface. If one looks closely at the mud or sand between the grass plants, you can see tiny scrape marks where the small claws have picked up food. Scattered among the scrape marks are lumps of rejected material.

The fiddler feeds on detritus—which is the most abundant food in the marsh. The detritus comes from the dead high marsh grass, which when dead, falls to the ground where the bacterial process breaks it up. This detritus-algae bacteria "soup" is scooped up in globs by the fiddlers and it is continuously fed into the digestive tract, with the legs sorting out the food. Other detritus feeders which come into the marshes are the mullet and menhaden.

The angler will soon learn that the fiddler is somewhat of a brittle creature. His thin carapace and large cavity area, coupled with lack of tough organs, like the mantle and foot of the clam, make him a hard bait to cast. The best method is to break off the large claw and insert the hook into the opening. I prefer to place the hook through the carapace, sometimes stringing several fiddlers on a hook by this method. The fiddler crab is a great favorite with the jetty jockeys who can just lob the bait into a deep hole along side of a jetty.

The ambitious angler can usually collect enough fiddlers for a day's fishing. A walk through the mud flats or among the grassy banks during low tide will reveal the fiddler's tiny holes or burrows. The fiddlers themselves are usually scattered over the flats, with many of them hiding beneath rocks. They can be scooped up or picked up by hand—if you are fast enough.

The tiny fiddler crab and his relationship to the marshes presents a complete, miniature ecosystem. As we have seen, the fiddler feeds on the detritus—the algae-bacteria "soup" which comes from the decomposition of the high marsh weeds. The fiddler himself represents a quick meal for the roving packs of blackfish which scour the bottom at the high tidal stage.

But the fiddler in particular, and the marshes in general, are in danger. Not from predatory fish, since nature has taught the fiddler crab to bury himself when the water begins to rise. His real enemy is man, who is constantly filling in and destroying the valuable marshland. All in the name of "progress." Unless there is a unified policy of preservation and conservation of our tidal wetlands, whether it be by the direct purchase method or public conservation agencies or by complicated, long legal methods such as zoning or easement, there will be a time when the mud fiddler and his burrows will no longer dot the Long Island marshlands.

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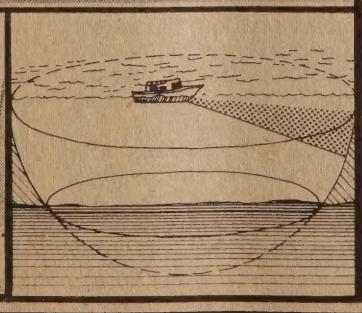

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ADVANCED BLUEFISHING

Part Two-*Live Lining Bunker*

by Capt. Ron Onorato

With the resurgence of the moss-bunker population, a new type of bluefishing evolved whereby these oily baitfish were fished live in an effort to land some of the larger blues, and without a doubt it became quite successful.

The object of all this attention is the bunker (menhaden) which became one of the chief sources of food for the blue as the other smaller baits declined in numbers. This member of the herring family is basically a plankton feeder and a heavily schooling fish. They can tolerate a wide range of temperatures but generally need a fairly high amount of oxygen in the water. The first bunkers usually show up along the south shore around the end of April, with the larger schools showing up in May. They often linger around well into November.

As the bunker schools move up and down the beaches, the bass and blues are usually right along with them. Once these predators find an easy source of food, they will stay with it until it becomes exhausted, and then they will seek out another supply.

I got my first taste of bunkering for blues many years ago off Sandy Hook. We had been drifting live bunkers for bass without any luck at all. At one point, one of the bunkers came up to the top and a big fish began swirling under it. Certain that it was a bass, I let the fish run with the bait for a good while before hitting him. When I finally socked him, the fish made a short run and then the line went slack. I reeled in a badly chaffed leader. Since we only had mono leaders, there was nothing we could do but fish them that way and hope for the best. We had 9 bunkers, and within an hour, the blues had just about taken care of them. They would drive them to the top and send them flying out of the water in their relentless pursuit. We thought to ourselves, "if this action is only incidental to our bass fishing, what would happen if we went specifically for blues with live bunkers?" As it turned out, the results were fantastic.

The main problem turned out to be the acquiring and keeping of the bunkers.

A school of bunker are herded to surface by blues.

The bunkers school densely and their presence is usually indicated by a "rippling" of the water's surface, or the tell take slap they make when their tails hit the surface. Either way, the fish are fairly easy to spot on a calm day. When the wind creates a little chop, you may have problems.

The only way to obtain a supply of live bait, other than purchasing them at the pound nets, is to snag them. They will not hit a cast lure since they aren't predatory. After much experimentation, I've found a 2 ounce drail with a 6/0 treble snagged on to the other end to be a sufficient snagger.

You snag the bait something like this; with a medium weight spinning outfit, cast the weighted treble across the school of bunkers and let it sink for a second or two. With a whipping action, retrieve the snagger. As the treble is being whipped across the school, it usually grabs a bunker somewhere in the body. The snagged bunker is then brought into the boat. There are times when the blues will be thick and they may grab the snagged bunker, so yo have to hurry it up. In order to get th maximum casts into a school, always pu the boat upwind of the school and dr into them.

Keeping the bunkers alive are problem in the summertime when th water is quite warm. The best contain seems to be the 24 gallon plastic garbag cans. Filled to the top, this wi accomodate 12 bunkers provided the aren't badly hooked and bleeding. An badly bleeding bunkers should b separated from the healthy ones. Wi constant changing of the water, th bunkers should last for most of the da A great help, is the purchase of a sma battery operated aerator that keeps constant supply of oxygen flowing in th pail.

You need only keep the bunkers pails if you're going to fish an area awa from the bunker schools. If the blues a thick right with the bunkers, I w usually snag a live bait with the spinnin rod, and transfer it right over to th other rod. Not all bunker schools ho

blues however.

Though some fishermen use spinning rods for fishing with the bunkers, a conventional outfit is usually better. It's hard to get good control over the live bunker with a spinning outfit. I use my bass outfit for live lining bunkers. A medium action conventional outfit with 20 pound mono is a good bet. The rod length may vary from 6 to 7 feet. If the water is shallow and there are a lot of rocks, it may pay to go to a little heavier line. On the open ocean or deep water the 20 pound line should handle any blues you may encounter.

Fishing the live bunkers in such a way to get the most hookups took a bit of experimentation. There are two basic rigs that can be used effectively and both of these can be modified as needed.

Blues unlike bass, chop their bait before swallowing. They will usually grab at the tail section or the belly region. Therefore, these areas must be covered in order to get the hit and runners.

The first rig is basically simple. You take a 6/0 O'Shaugnessey hook and using steelon leader material (30 or 45 pound test) attach it to another hook of the same size (see diagram.) The space between the two hooks should be around 4 inches. Another segment of the leader material is then added in front of the first hook. The other end of the leader is then finished off with a black barrel swivel. When this rig is finished off, you should be able to hook a bunker up as follows: the tail hook is inserted below the skin somewhere in the tail region. The head hook is then placed somewhere ahead of the dorsal fin. This rig allows the complete movement of the bunker.

The second rig is pretty much the same, except that it employs a small treble hook in the tail area to replace the single hook. The treble hook usually grabs the fish a little better than the single hook, but is impossible to remove if the fish swallows it. If the blues keep biting the belly region, you can slip a small free swinging hook there. (see diagram.)

Where to fish the bunkers varies with location. As mentioned earlier, try the bunker school from which you first snagged the bunkers. More often than not, that's as far as you need go. Along the North Shore, you can try any of the points that dot the harbors and bays. For example, Cooper's Bluff in Oyster Bay harbor is a good bet. Along the South Shore, you can blind drift along the 30 and 40 foot depths off Long and Lido Beaches. At times, Reynold's Channel and the State Channel hold the big blues.

About the only thing to do when fishing the bunkers is to give the chopper a few feet before setting the hook. A big blue will usually run with the bait while he is chopping, so wait a few seconds before hitting the fish. Usually you can tell when you have a customer by the bunker's action. The fish will sometimes swirl on the surface and then disappear in a big splash. The blue will be taking line, so after waiting, just engage the reel and give the rod a sharp lift. This ought to drive the fish home.

The numbers of bunkers you will need depends on how long you will be fishing and how fast the action is. If the blues are hungry they can take care of a dozen bunkers in no time. It always seems, as soon as the fishing gets hot, you run out of bait and can't find it again.

Another bait that is very effective for blues is the common eel. The blues caught on these baits are usually incidental to bass fishing, and few people use them expressly for the purpose of catching blues. For some reason, the blues usually hang onto an eel and try to eat him all up rather than just chop in half. Many times they give a long, single runoff rather than the short series of chops they give when eating the bunkers. If you do plan on using live eels for blues, attach a six inch steelon wire leader ahead of the hook you're using.

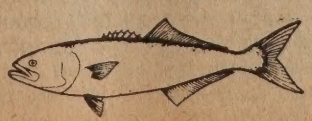
One of the latest innovations as far as live bait fishing goes, is the use of live bottom fish such as bergalls, sea bass or porgies to catch big blues. This is usually concerned with bluefishing offshore over the wrecks, reefs and other hard pieces of bottom. I guess it was discovered accidentally. Someone had probably hooked a small fish, and while bringing it to the surface, had it eaten by a blue.

At times when the party boats are chumming, these live baits will outfish the more traditional baits. In the fall when the blues are feeding heavily, live baits are exceptional. Also, blues are excited by the sight of a live bait and they strike more readily.

Last year at the Cholera Banks I was catching tiny sea bass and bergalls with small hooks on one outfit, and then quickly transferring them to the bluefish rod. The live baits were then allowed to roam around, but it wasn't for long, because the blues would zero in on it amost immediately.

To hook these baits, up, all that's needed is a 4/0 Eagle Claw hook with a small steelon leader. The small hooks are then inserted below the skin a little bit ahead of the dorsal fin.

Blues are normally vicious fish, but the sight of live bait always seems to stir them up even more. I would hazard a guess that virtually any small live fish presented before him, would soon end up in his stomach.



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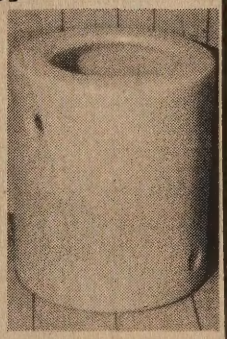

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HARBOR LIGHTS

Part One

by Dr. William A. Muller

For almost a decade now the bluefish have been incredibly abundant along the east coast of the United States. Absolutely great fishing has been reported from head boats, private inshore craft, and surf fishermen. Surf casters have really had an autumnal bonanza from such diverse big-name beaches as Nantucket, Montauk Point and Cape Hatteras. The fish have gone crazy in the Florida surf at Miami Beach too! Dense schools of choppers ran the Florida beaches chewing up everything in their path, including a few people, and the bluefish attacks made the front pages of several Florida newspapers.

Incidentally, these haven't been snapper blues either! The choppers are real slammers, with many fish in the high teens having been taken during the last four or five years.

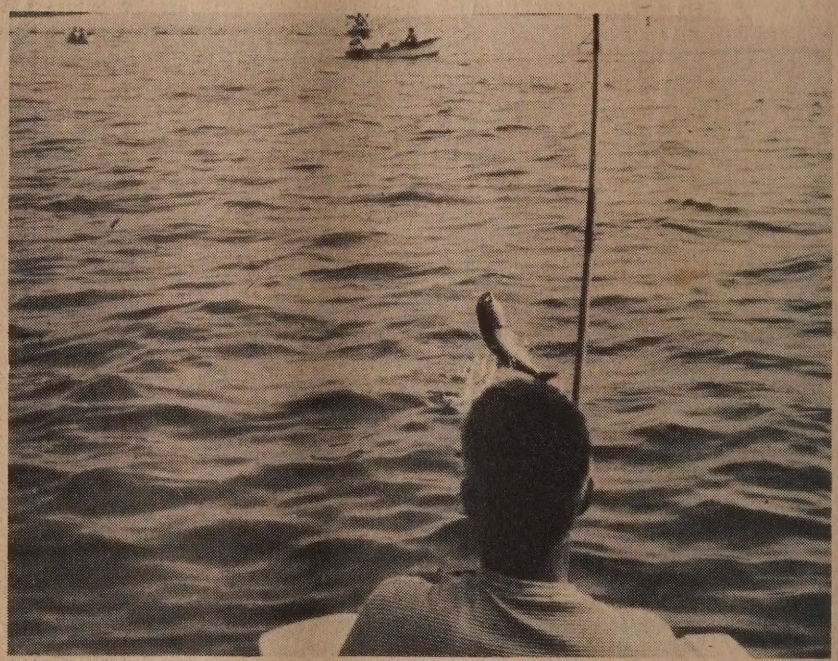
Summertime fishing was, until the last few years, the province of the deep water chummers and wire line trollers. Bluefish can give you a workout even on heavy wire tackle so nobody really complained.

However, seldom did beach fishermen or small craft sharpies have a shot at the ornery critters during the long hot summer. With the fuel shortages affecting supplies and the price of gasoline sky rocketing, long hours of trolling and gas guzzling became undesirable.

The return of large menhaden, called mossbunker or just bunker here on Long Island, opened up new possibilities for summer bluefishermen, Yet, the presence of commercial bunker boats in Long Island Sound often doomed the fishing before it barely became established.

The out-sized choppers pushed the bunker, weighing up to several pounds each, into the western sound and the harbors as well. Every morning the blues moved into the harbors, corralled the bunker into densely packed balls, and then went on a feed.

By 8 A.M. the action was usually over. The pattern would hold day after day until the bunker boats found the baitfish and gathered up the schools. On several occasions altercations between sportsfishermen and commercial boats flared up and local authorities were worried that someone would be injured during the rather intense discussions. A commercial boat enclosed a number of small craft in a net on one occasion near the Throgs Neck Bridge, and during another incident in Connecticut waters, sportfishermen lined up their boats and closed access to the harbor for the bunker boats.



This bluefish jumped and flipped throughout the battle and continued acrobatics right to the gaff.

Public pressure and common sense brought about the Mannix-Pisani Law in New York State, which now restricts the operations of the bunker boats to mid-sound in western sectors.

Therefore, "bunker bunkin" in all Long Island harbors held up all summer. Some fish were caught every morning in every harbor, but frequent blitzes overshadowed the steady pick. The magnitude of these feeds staggers the imagination: the blues often fed for the entire day in the midst of tremendous boat traffic, turning the water red with the stain of bunker blood. In their frenzy, the blues chopped at each other; many fish came into the boat with gaping holes in their sides. These salt water piranhas pushed the bunker to the heads of the harbors so tightly at times that thousands of the baitfish died suddenly from lack of oxygen.

A graphing type depth recorder shows that the greedy blues hang just outside the perimeter of the school of bait. From time to time a big blue will rush into the school, grab a fish and then return to their stations at the edge of balled bait. The bunker are prevented from scattering by other blues that remain on the perimeter of the school and drive stragglers back into the dense mass of bunker.

Rich Reina and I along with Rich's son Richie, were receiving continuous reports of quality harbor bluefishing from Port Jefferson, Huntington, Oyster Bay Cold Spring Harbor and Hempstead Harbors but when we had arrived on the scene the blitz would be over and only the steady pickings remained—which were not too bad!

The idea of leaving those cumbersome wire line outfits in the garage in favor of light spinning equipment was just the ticket to break all of us free of our summer doldrums.

Together we had traveled the fishing scene, beginning with the tide-runner weakfish then switching to the surf for some striped bass in late spring. We

nudged the fluke to commit suicide at Montauk and were not intent on riding the crest of the bunker dunkin' bluefish craze.

At 4:30 A.M. we were on the water in Huntington Harbor. The blues were around alright and already feeding, even though first light was still a half-hour away. The typical pattern found the blues feeding very litttle before sunrise and then going on a binge with the first rays of sunshine. The baitfish were packed tight and here and there the water erupted as a monster bluefish rushed the bunker.

The bunker dunking technique is simple and thoroughly enjoyable, but fishermen must make a few preparations prior to getting out on the water. A snagging tree is a must and it consists of a weighted large (6/0 to 9/0) treble hook that can be purchased at most tackle shops. A 10 inch piece of nylon-coated stranded wire of at least 45 pound test should be secured with a metal sleeve and crimping tool to the weighted treble hook. Fashion a loop three inches from the weighed hook and add a 3/0 treble hook to the loop before crimping the loop closed with a metal sleeve. Repeat the process with a second loop three inches above the first. Each loop should be allowed a generous bulge (about 3 to 4 inches) so that the treble hooks extend well away from the main leader. Finally, a small loop at the top of the rig enables the angler to attach it to a snap swivel.

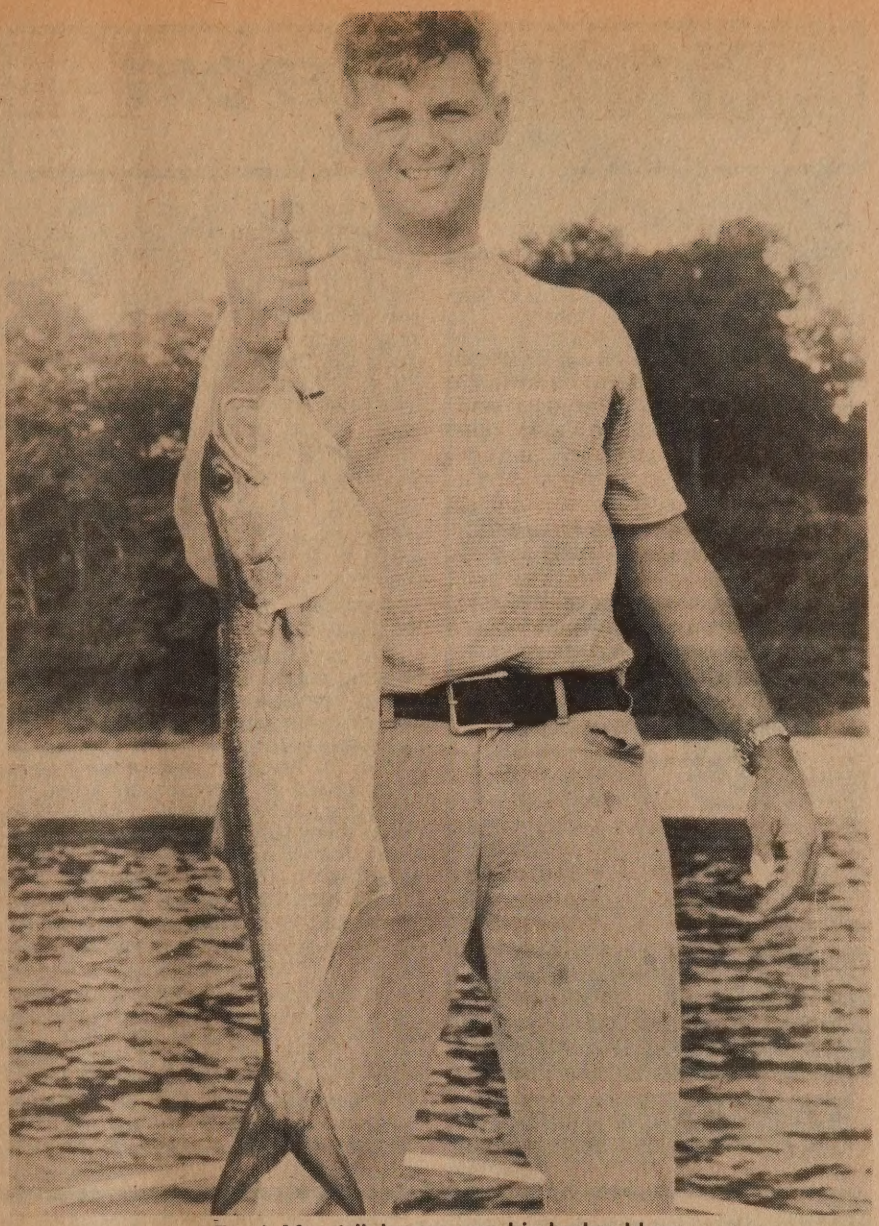
Cast the snagging tree into the bunker school, allow it to settle for a few seconds and then retrieve it. There are several schools of thought on the best way to use the snagging rig. I prefer to retrieve in short jerky spurts until a hook finds a home in the side of a baitfish.

The snagged bunker is transferred to a bridle and is then allowed to swim away from the boat naturally. The bunker should be returned to the water quickly because these fish are not hardy. Extra menhaden can be kept alive in bait wells or in plastic garbage can with numerous small holes and suspended over the side of the boat in a large inner tube. Some skippers use portable aerators and keep the container onboard but I believe the over the side method is easier if your boat lacks bait wells.

The bridle is prepared by securing two 3/0 trebles at opposite ends of a 4 inch piece of nylon-coated 45 pound test stranded wire. A second 10 inch piece of wire is then crimped onto the wire bridle so that the small loop swings easily along the length of the wire that connects the treble hooks. The bridle does not kill the bunker but does slow them down a little. The first treble is embedded behind the head just in front of the dorsal fin and above the pectoral fin.

The second hook is placed in the

(continued on page 53.)



Frank Meystrik beams over big harbor blues.

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Montauk Report

by Scott Simons

The general fishing report for Montauk can now only be described as "Super Excellent". All the summer species of fish are now in very strong, and a late run of teen-size striped bass has rounded out the fishing. The offshore area around the Butterfish Hole and Fingers has come alive with tuna, swordfish, marlin, and mako sharks in addition to the "all-you-want" blue sharks. Codfishing at Coxes Ledge was excellent at last report before the cod boats sailed to New York Harbor for the Bib B celebration. Inshore the water is virtually teeming with fish...fluke fishing is the best Montauk has ever seen at the North Rips, Midway area and small skiffs are loading up on fluke all along Gin Beach and around Shagwong Point. Seabass are still around in huge quantities wherever you drop a baited hook. Those giant Montauk "humpback" porgies of two and three pounds are now in strong around Great Eastern and the rips between it and the lighthouse. Bluefish have made another strong showing at the Submarine Buoy and it looks like they are there to stay this time. So if you are looking for a real "mixed-bag" this weekend, Montauk is the place to go.

Frank Scharf of Floral Park caught this 9 lb. 12 oz. fluke aboard the Helen ii.

This past Thursday I had the pleasure of going out on a one-man charter with one of Montauk's most respected local fishermen, **Captain John DeMaio** of the charterboat Vivienne. All I can say is that in the last four years since I have been fishing at Montauk on a two or three day a week schedule I have never put as many fish in the boat as John and I did, regardless of how many people were fishing. The day progressed like this:an hour after we left the dock, we had boated 19 weakfish that weighed 92 lbs. after being gutted. Then we went out to the Great Eastern area to d a little porgy fishing while waiting for the change of tide. In an hour and a half we put between 60 and 70 pounds of big porgies in the box, many of which were in the 3 pound category. And oh yeah, John managed to put three striped bass in the box he took on a porgy rig that weighed between 15 and 20 pounds each. (these fish were no accident either...John does this bit on a regular basis.) After the change of tide we went to the Elbow and diamond jigged for about two hours and took 13 bass with a combined weight of 195 lbs. Although John specializes in striped bass on diamond jigs and casting bucktails, he's a real professional and will work the tides to produce a mixed bag of anything that swims. So far those readers out there that want to get away from the oft-times boring "formula" fishing of

Greg Hopkins of Mamaroneck caught this 160 lb. mako at the Fingers, 23 miles south of the point on 30 lb. test line. The shark was taken aboard his father, Capt. John Hopkins' boat "Colleen". It took 1 hr. to bring the shark to the boat where the wire snapped, it then took 20 min. of chasing to bring the shark to gaff.

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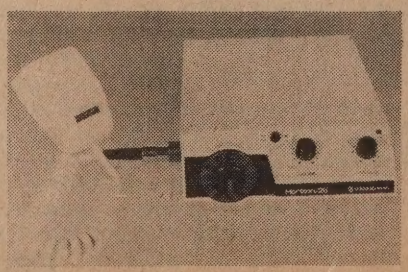

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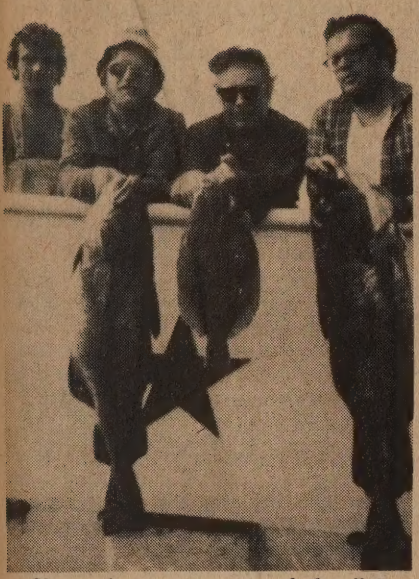

Shown here are some of the fish caught aboard the Peconic Queen iii on a recent trip. Bernie Gobel with 5 fish took a $222. pool, Ed Bridgward with 7 fish took a $170. pool.

many boats, I highly recommend that you give John a call and arrange a special "pot pourri" charter for up to four passengers.

Captain Paul Forsberg of the **Viking Star** reported that the codfishing was excellent on Saturday at Coxes Ledge. Seventeen "hangers" were on the rail when the boat docked, and five or six large pollack were also taken. George Shuman was high-hook with 21 cod, and the pool fish was close to fifty pounds. Paul Bicentennial blast in New York Harbor on Monday morning.

Captain Richard Rade of the **Marlin III** said that he has been sailing daily for fluke and the fishing has been "super good" with a lot of doormats. The poolfish is always 8 or 9 lbs. Best areas have been the North Rips and the Midway area, but the fish are all over the place.

"The waters offshore are alive with fish," is the word from Captain John Sweetman of the charter boat **Ebb Tide.** Bluefin and yellowfin tuna and swordfish, blue sharks and makos, white marlin... they're all there. Many boats trolling baits on the way to and from the grounds had white marlin come up and take a swipe at the bait over the weekend, but none were hooked or boated. John also said that the bluefish are now in strong at Submarine Buoy for the half-day trollers. Fluke fishing is the best that Montauk has ever had and continues to improve. John asked us to say that he is now all booked up for all weekend trips in July and August but he still has a few weekday openings for bluefish, stgriped bass or fluke charters.

Captain George McTurck of the charterboat **Sportfisher** told us that the bass fishing has improved and on Monday afternoon they took fifteen bass in the 12 to 15 lb. range trolling umbrella rigs. Incoming water has been best around the Great Eastern Buoy on the edges of 40 feet. George also said that he heard on the radio that Bobby Tuma on the "Dawn" took about 25 bluefish trolling at the Sub Buoy on Monday. There are also a lot of bluefish around Block Island.

Captain Fred Thompson of the chartboat **Sandpiper** reported taking 40 bluefish in the 8 to 12lb. range southwest of the Submarine Buoy on Monday. Fred said that he spotted the blues working on top and didn't even have to turn on his recorder to troll the fish on umbrella rigs. He also heard on the radio that one offshore boat fishing about 20 miles south of the Sub Buoy in 31 to 36 fathoms took eight tuna on Monday, yellowfins up to 50 lbs. and bluefins between 40 and 100 lbs. Fred also heard via radio that five swordfish came into Montauk on Monday that were taken on the east bank of the Butterfish Hole, but hed didn't know how many of the broadbills were taken on hook and line. A few white marlin were also spotted on Monday by many of the offshore boats.$

Captain Dick Vigilant of the charter boat **Triton II** told us that on 'monday his charter took 30 bluefish averaging 10 to 12 lbs. trolling umbrella rigs at the Submarine Buoy and off the Southeast Light of Block 'Island. On Saturday he took a charter to the Pocketbook grounds north of the jetties and loaded up on large sea bass and porgies.$

Capt John DeMaio of the vivienne told us that the bass fishing was excellent all week with diamond jigs on incoming water from the Elbow to Great Eastern. The fishing was hottest on Monday afternoon, when eighteen bass with a combined weight of 300 lbs. were boated in a few hours of diamond jigging. Even the local skiff "Pepe" managed to boat a few bass. John said that they also loaded up on a mess of sea bass and porgies, with one porgy going an even 4 lbs. on the scale.

During the past week Captain Murray Homelsky of the charter boat **Cherokee**

These monster blues along with a 125 lb. blue shark were caught on the "Free Spirit" charterboat by Dr. M. Klein, Dr. M. Berlin, Dr. F. Brenan, Dr. Jay Miller, Dr. P. Fleishman and Bob shafranek.

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Bertyl Delgado caught a 47 lb. cod for a $443 pool, and Valerie Lewis with a 25 lb.pollack caught aboard the Peconic Queen iii.

reported that the shark fishing was excellent. He said that at least five sharks to a party has been average. As of this week, the Captain said he is starting night monster shark trips and also special night trips for Monster Montauk bluefish in addition to the usual day trips. He reported that there is good bluefishing at the Submarine Buoy, and now that this area has busted open the Cherokee will be making many a trip for these husky blues.

Henry Colombi of the **Star Island Yacht Club** told us that for the second year in a row the boats docked at the Yacht Club cleaned up on the fish offshore on the Fourth of July Weekend. Many swordfish were spotted and baited, but none were taken on hook and line. The "Sandee See" managed to stick one broadbill that weighed in at 280 pounds. The "What's Next' baited one swsord for two hours and another for a half an hour, both times without success. They also spotted three other swordfish. On Saturday the "Jeslin took a 150 lb. mako shark and on Sunday the "Lee Marie" boated a 250 lb. mako. The "Colleen" also took a mako of 160 lbs. on Sunday. One boat brought in a blue shark on Sunday that weighed 278 lbs., not including the 40 baby sharks the fish gave birth to when it was hit with the gaff. CAptain Dave McMahon of the charter boat "Marie II" trolled fiftgeedn bass and a half dozen bluedfish on Saturday. The charter boat "Bumble Bee" took six blue sharks south of the Point on Saturday, tagging five and bringing one in for wseighing in. Hednry also said that the fluke fishing has been fantastic, particularly off Shagwong Point. Small skiffs that have never even fished Montauk before are putting 30 to 40 fish in the box and tghe regulars are boating even more fluke. One boat that was sailing to the marina for the Fourth of July Weekend spotted a total of nine swordfish and four white marlin en routge. With no rods, reels or bait aboard, the Captain stuck one fish only to have it cut off the wire on a gas funnel.

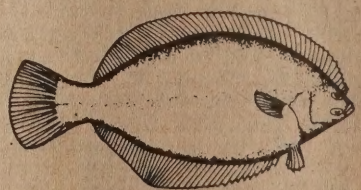
The time has how arrived for a 3rd generation of Forsbergs to ply the Montauk waters. Paul B. Forsberg, 18 year old son of Paul Forsberg of the **Viking Star** and grandson of Carl Forsberg will be doing his stint on the **Viking Starlite**, fishing local Montauk grounds and sharing the wheelhouse with Captain Charlie Harned. Good luck Paul and good fishing always.

The open boat **Captain Spider** is presently doing a job on the fluke in the rips out at Montauk and taking good catches of these delicious fish.

Captain Buddy Dorman of the **Viking Skipper II** is porgy fishing at Gardiner's Island and reports good fishing every day. Gloria Bryant of the Bronx was hi-hook on Sunday with 69 porgies of mixed sizes with a scattering of jumbos included.

Captain Frank of the **Free Spirit** called to say that he was fishing on Sunday south of the Butterfish Hole in 230 feet of water and took 8 blueshark in the 175 lb. class, and all were taken on either sea robin or dog fish (dead), with bunker chum. Lots of sharks out there, Frank advises.

Capt. Pete Ermalinski of the "Lady Shazaam" reports that on Wednesday his wife Linda took a 9¾ lb. fluke and Cherie Pope came up with two 8 pounders. On Thursday Charlie Nappi took a 7 pounder and on Friday a 450 lb. dusky was taken 240' south of Montauk Point. The shark was 11½ ft. long and had a 50 inch girth, it made 1500 ft. run on 50 lb test, 6/0 reel. The shark took 4 hours to bring in and during that time the line broke on the trim tab and had to be spliced.



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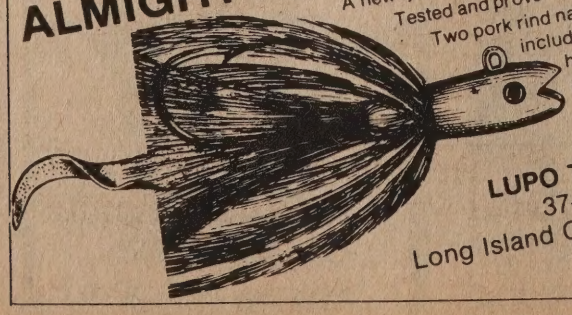

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SOUTH SHORE Fishing Report

PROMISED LAND

Promised Land Fishing Station reports good porgy fishing at the Bell Buoy and off Cartwright Island. A few blacks and sea bass are mixed in with these catches. Hicks Island at Can 2 has good fluke fishing. There is lots of action on spearing and squid and there are more shorts than keepers. Weakfish and blues are spotty and you must watch for the birds if you want these fish. The weaks are being taken on bucktails with squid.

SHINNECOCK

Altenkirch Bait and Tackle reports the first place for swordfish of the Shinnecock Anglers Tournament was won by Dr. Joseph Ransohoff on his boat the "Spinner." He took a 332 pound swordfish. His boat captain was Jimmy Muhs. First place white marlin of 88 and ¼ pounds was brought in by the boat "Az Ever" owned by Bob Clements and caught by his son John. Bob had second place mako with a 166 lb. fish. The "Sea Hunter" captained by Artie Jost whose son Bobby took the prize with a 75 pound white marlin. Micky says inshore fishing has been slow. Fluke fishing is better but there are a lot of shorts.

The **Captain Clark** reports porgy fishing picking up very nicely, 20 to 30 per man when there is no wind. These fish are from ¾ to 1¼ pounds. Kingfish are picking up, the boat taking a few dozen every day. Fred Atterberry of Brooklyn had 47 porgies on Sunday. They are fishing west of Robbin's Island with worms mostly, on the wrecks and some fishing over open bottom.

HAMPTON BAYS

Very good fluke fishing at buoy 20 according to **Frank's Fishing Station**. Fluke are averaging 3 or 4 pounds each but there are a lot of throwbacks along with plenty of action. Keepers are averaging 10 to 20 per boat.

This past weekend, L.I.F. publisher Rich Reina and members of the family fished Shinnecock Bay in L.I.F.'s John Dory Cricket with bucktails and squid strips for a total of 10 keeper fluke in the 3 to 4 pound range, with Rich taking an 8 pounder himself.

MORICHES BAY

Bob Cole at **Moriches Bait and Tackle** reports plenty of fluke but they are scattered throughout the bay. Live killies and spearing are your best bet and throwbacks are 3 to 1. Bob says there are plenty of fish 17 to 19 inches. Moriches Inlet has blackfish that are being taken on green and fiddler crabs.

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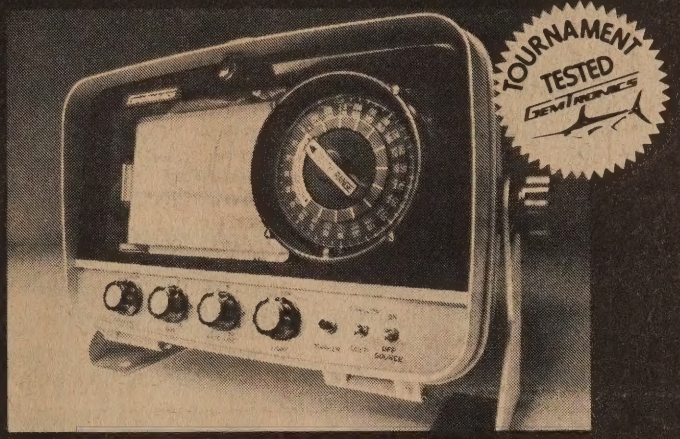

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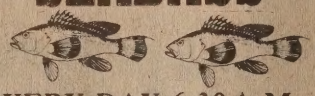
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Stan Bigora, Roger Royalty, Mike Kijowski and Eddie Green of East Moriches with a 263 lb. mako caught SE. of Moriches Inlet in 120 ft of water. Photo courtesy of Skidmore's Fishing Station.

Also at Moriches Inlet bunker dunking and live eel fishing has accounted for quite a few striped bass of 20 and 30 pounds. There are some blues offshore but fishing for them is not that great. Bob said that if somebody wants some family fishing, there are gold fish of ¾ to 1 pound in the pond opposite the store.

Fluke fishing was beautiful over the weekend according to **Tadsen's Fishing Station**. On Monday there was a lot more action and fewer keepers. Squid with killies or sand eels are the preferred bait. There are nice size flounders south of buoy 30 and in the drain leading to Great Gun Beach on bloodworms and clams.

Highway Fishing Station says there are plenty of fluke all over the bay. Better than half are throwbacks, but there is plenty of action to be had at buoys 38 and 39. There are flounder in the hole in front of the station and at buoys 36 to 38 south of the channel.

MASTIC BEACH

Stiriz's Fishing Station reports good bluefishing with the best at buoy 12 on any small artificial. Weakfish are under the blues, so try a large shrimp jig or a smaller one with await. You must get under the blues. Buoys 12 and 16 should be tried for weakfish which have been taken this past week up to 7 pounds 6 ounces, this one by Bunny DiPasquale. Lots of throwback fluke from buoys 20 to 23 along with keepers. Blue claw crabs are starting well and some kingfish on squid at buoy 17.

WEST SAYVILLE

South Bay Fishing Station reports weakfish have been taken one mile south of the Brown's Creek Jetty drifting salty dogs, squid and spearing, to the tune of up to 18 per boat this past week. Bluefish are hitting all kinds of lures in this same area, running from 2 to 4 pounds with an occasional big chopper taking the hook. Fluke are being caught in the same area with spearing working best, fish in the 2 to 3 pound class.

OAKDALE

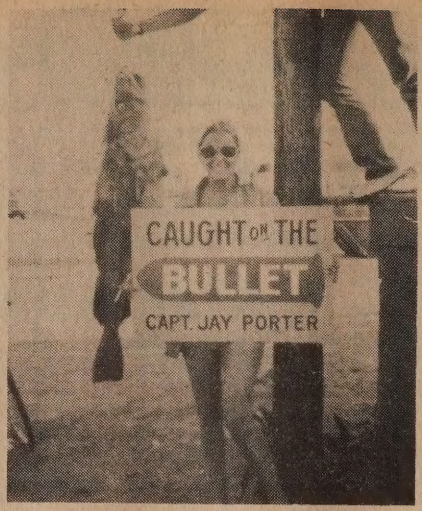
Howie's Fishing Station informs us that Bernie Feuer brought in 16 fluke averaging 3 pounds per fish along with 1 blue taken at the buoy 13 area on spearing and squid. Only two shorts were taken in the boat. Buoy 13 is also producing best for weaks and fluke.

OAKBEACH

Hayes at **The Store** reports that weaks are spotty at the Thumb but those that are hitting want Tri-Fins in the ¾ and ½ oz. variety. Fluking is very good in Fire Island Inlet on sandeels and spearing, best at the dredge on the change. Small blues are there every night at the top of the flood and hitting anything small. Some schoolies between Cedar and the Thumb on plugs. Hayes says that the inlet and the back are loaded with sandeels.

EAST ISLIP

Wet-A-Line Bait and Tackle tells of weakfish at the Coast Guard Station and off the Bayshore Marina dock on Tri-Fin eel worms and sandeels. Blues at Fire Island Inlet on bunker chum and butterfish. Fluke at West Channel and the Coast Guard Station fair to good on sandeels.



Pretty Patty Ishkanian, I.G.F.A. cod and pollack world record holder with a 49 lb. cod caught last week on the "Bullet".

BAY SHORE

Smokey's Bait and Tackle reports that Harry Finizio had 25 keepers to 8 pounds at Snake Hill Channel on Friday, on squid and spearing on the flood. There is very good fluking in this same area, with 60 percent keepers, Snake Hill and West Channel as good bets. Blues in the bay are decent in morning and late afternoon hours on Redfins and white Pussy cats. Some blowfish around. Weaks in Brightwaters canals late in the day, up to 8 pounds on squid and sand eels. Crabbing is good at the Bayshore Marina. Offshore, blues are picky between Gilgo and Cholera.

CAPTREE

Bullet captains Jay Porter and Captain Sandy called this week to tell us they are now running for blues day and night from Captree. This Sunday they'll be running a special cod trip to fish wrecks 100 miles offshore. They still have a few openings for that trip and reservations aren't necessary, but to be there at the dock by 3 A.M. Sunday morning. Jay says starting next week, every Sunday there'll be a special long range tile trip and while reservations aren't needed they will guarantee you a spot at the rail. Jay's new 87 foot aluminum boat which is on order may be shortened to fit in Captree next season.

The **Lady Ann** reports fluking is from excellent to fantastic with catches ranging from 5 to 25 per man all week long. Keepers. They are everywhere in the bay from Point 'O Woods through buoy 8, with the last of the flood being best. The **Lady Ann** will be sailing special trips on July 9th and 23rd for bluefish. See ad. They still have Sunday, July 11th available for charter.

The **Captain Joseph Fleet** reported that the fluke fishing is still very good and holding up well. The fish are spread throughout the bay from the inlet to Ocean Beach and are hitting on any moving tide. At least one of the Joseph boats is expected to start bluefishing very soon, perhaps this weekend.

The **Captain Ben Litwin** confirmed the "pretty good" good fluke fishing off West Island and the Robert Moses Bridge. Incoming water has been best and all the anglers aboard are going home happy. None of the fluke are too big, but the pool fish is usually around the four pound mark.

BABYLON

One of the latest features in the Village of Babylon is the new engine shop and marine supply store which is being tremendously enlarged at **Suffolk Marine Center**. Paul, who owns **Suffolk Marine Center** advises that these newly expanded facilities will allow him to provide quicker and even more efficient service to both old and new customers.

Augie's Bait and Tackle tells us that angler Bob Grady and wife had 16 fluke up to 3¾ pounds on Sunday fishing West Channel with just killies. Augie's now carries live killies. Bluefish are being chummed by private boats with good success in 120 feet of water, fish in the 12 to 15 pound range, and the first snapper of the season was taken off the Babylon Dock on Monday. Plenty of crabs off the docks and the bays and a lot

MORROW introduces NEW Sounders with *Temperature Gauge!

The MORROW S60 and S120 Sounders/Fish Finders are a whole new, hot breed. They ought to be, because Morrow makes them, and Morrow is the fastest growing marine electronics manufacturer around!

Our expanded line with 6 models are 100% American manufactured and we're proud of it. We choose to manufacture here for the total product control it gives us. We know exactly what quality goes into our product, and it's the best quality available.

We know a good product is only as good as the service behind it. That's why we have west and east coast service centers.

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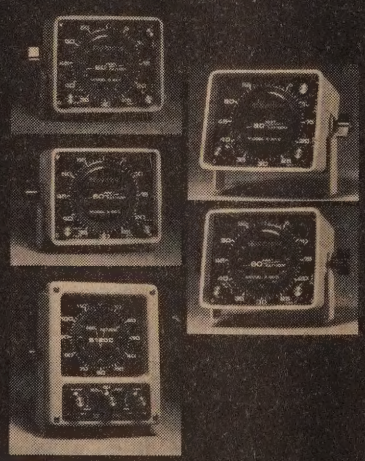
We're young and flexible. We have a team of engineers who put ideas into action! Many of the advanced features of our Sounders came from fisherman and dealer ideas.

For more information on these hot, New Sounders, drop this coupon in the mail today!

*Pat. Pend



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Send me your FREE color brochure on the NEW MORROW SOUNDERS.
Name _____
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City _____ State _____ Zip _____
$ 70

Terri Gisbert caught this 8 lb. 10 oz. fluke which was one of 6 caught by the Coast Guard Station on Squid and killy combos. Photo courtesy of Augies Bait & Tackle.

of shark offshore. Angler John Bell brought in a 2 pound Remora which he took on hook and line over this past weekend.

Babylon Fishing Station reports that the Snake Hill Channel is producing good fluke catches and that blues are responding to chum slicks in Steam Boat channel. Killies and squid are accounting for an average of 8 fluke per boat in the 3 pound class.

This morning, L.I.F. was saddened to learn of the passing of Charlie Crowlie who owned and ran Charlie's Fishing Station in West Babylon. Charlie had the station for over 10 years and was in fine health but on the night of July 4th, passed away in his sleep, apparently of a heart attack. Charlie was 46 years old. He is being buried out of Our Lady of Grace Church, No. Babylon and will be interred at the Long Island National Cemetery at Pine Lawn. Charlie's wife, Margaret will continue to run the fishing station. Charlie was a "Good Guy" and we cannot afford to lose too many more like him.

LINDENHURST

Duke's Bait and Tackle reports fluke has picked up, especially in the Fire Island Inlet, at Robert Moses Bridge and the Coast Guard Station and West Island plus the area just outside Democrat Point on killies, squid and sandeels, with outgoing working best. Big blues and a lot of them offshore from 120 to 165 feet of water, fish 13 to 15 pounds, being chummed. Shark fishing is hot and cold, but mostly taken in 160 to 200 foot range. Increased blackfish activity at the Kismet Inside Reef on fiddlers. Striped bass is slow as is the weakfishing, but a lot of small bass are being taken at Kismet on umbrellas and small blues and weaks are being hung there also, same way. Crabs off the docks in traps, but too early for top netting. Snappers on the south side of the bay and the state channel coves,

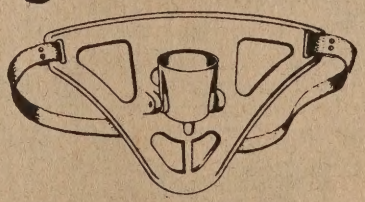
THE SAND...
THE SUN...THE SURF...AND THE
STATION WITH SPIRIT
WGLI
HITS THE
BEACH
Every Saturday...all summer long...WGLI will broadcast directly from Babylon's Cedar Beach Overlook from sunrise till 7 pm. Come down and join us. We'll help you get there with special traffic and parking reports. We'll keep you up-to-date with marine forecasts, surfing conditions and special bulletins every quarter-hour of the day. And we'll continue to play the music you like to swim to or tan by.
It's our season in the sun...come join us!
WGLI 1290

The Long Island FISHERMAN

CONTEST

FISHING TRIP

The Long Island Fisherman Litter Box Contest gives our readers a chance of winning a fishing trip for two on the open boat of their choice and a $10 cash prize. All the fisherman has to do is stop in at one of the better bait and tackle centers and pick up an L.I.F. Litter Box for the rear window of your car. Each week the license number of a car spotted with a litter box will be published—if it's yours, call The Fisherman by 5 P.M. that Friday and tell us the make and model of the car and you're a winner! If no call is received, the cash prize will accumulate.



★ Bonus Prize ★

Contest winners also will receive a NAFABCO GIMBAL ROD BELT, the new lightweight unbreakable plastic gimbal for boat & surf!!!

LAST WEEK'S WINNER:

The person with the license plate No. 464GSC failed to call into LIF a description of his car by the Friday deadline so this week there is no winner of the Contest. Next week's winner shall receive $20 instead of the usual $10 plus a free fishing trip for two aboard a boat of his choice.

THIS WEEK'S WINNING LICENSE PLATE NUMBER IS:

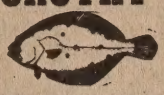
59- CGI

Weekly winners of the L.I.F. Litter Box Contest may chose a trip for two aboard one of the following boats as their prize:

MONTAUK	CAPTREE	SHEEPSHEAD BAY	NORTH SHORE
Viking Star	Speedy VI	Amberjack IV	Port Jeff Ace
Peconic Queen III	Capt. Ben Litwin	Chief	Betty W
Marlin III	Capt. Joseph Fleet	FREEPORT Aloma II	

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

8 AM ★ DOROTHY B ★ 8 AM



PIER 6 PIER 6

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JERSEY COAST FLUKE
BIG 85 FT.—LATEST ELECTRONICS
Bait & Tackle—Family Atmosphere
HELPFUL, COURTEOUS CREW
Capt. Kevin—212-646-4057
Capt. Kevin
Capt. Pat

NEW **AMBERJACK IV** NEW

SHEEPSHEAD BAY—Pier III 7AM Mon./Fri. 6AM Sat., Sun. & Hol.
—BOTTOM FISHING—
★ COD, POLLACK & TILE TRIPS ★
CALL FOR DATES & INFO
BLUES! Starting Fri. Nite, 7PM, 6-11-76
And Every Nite Except Sunday
Capt. Fred 212-646-8083
CHARTERS AVAIL.—DAY & NIGHT
Capt. Jim 212-336-2050

STRIPED BASS
DAY & EVENING CHARTERS
BLUES
FLUKE • PINA III

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FLUKE DERBY

$500 And Growing!
Fly You To The Fishing Grounds
FLUKE 7 A M EVERY DAY
Pier 9 • 120' All Steel—All Weather
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Complete Electronics • Restaurant
Senior Citizen Rate
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SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR BEGINNERS
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LADIES ACCOMMODATIONS
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6A.M. & 7P.M. EVERY DAY
"The All Brand New"
HELEN H
Fabulous—Fast—100' All Aluminum
Space Age Supercruiser
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The Latest In Fish Finding Electronics
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Capt. George (516) 541-3293
Capt. Joe (Formerly of the B'klyn) (212) 332-0205
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STRIPERS • BLUES • TUNA • SHARK • BOTTOM
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Boat & Captain Fully Licensed
SAFE, CLEAN 45' DIESEL—ELECTRONICS
CHARTERS ONLY
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41' HATTERAS
—STRIPERS—
—BLUES—
6 Pass. Limit
ALL ELECTRONICS
DELUXE ACCOMM.
Capt. Artie Lino
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STOP POLLUTION!

SHEEPSHEAD BAY • PIER 1
ZEPHYR
SAILS 7AM DAILY
SEABASS & BLACKS
Capt. Butch (212) 375-2892 After 6PM

BIG MOHAWK II
NOW BOOKING WEEKDAY CHARTER
—SPECIAL WEEKDAY RATES—
65' • 20' Wide • Fast Twin Diesels • 600HP
"NEW ELECTRONICS FOR YOUR SAFETY
COMFORT & FISHING SUCCESS!"
CAPT. TONY 212-MI-7-7554 —PIER 1— CAPT. DAN 212-EL-1-1066

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6 PASSENGER LIMIT
PARKWAY FISH. STA.
KNAPP ST. EXIT
BELT PARKWAY
SAILING DAILY DURING JULY & AUGUST
"BABE"
Capt. Stan Kreisler 212-444-5217 *After 7PM* Capt. Ken Kreisler 212-634-2488

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LARGE & SMALL PARTIES
Fast 45' Twin Diesel-All Electronics
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SHEEPSHEAD BAY • PIER 7
PILOT II 6 A.M. DAILY
65' Twin Diesel

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CAPT. DOM 65' Open Boat Full Electronics
SEABASS & PORGIES 7AM EVERY DAY
LARGE CHARTERS AVAILABLE
Pier 7 • SHEEPSHEAD BAY
Capt. Dom Palermo (212) 438-1059

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6 PASS. • 45 FT. TWIN DIESEL
CHIANTI
All Types of Fishing—Charters Only
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"CHIEF"
112' FAST, MODERN TWIN DIESEL
FLUKE • FLUKE • FLUKE
10AM EVERY DAY (Exc. Mon.)
Special Attention to Beginners
All Electronics • Snack Bar • Tackle
SHEEPSHEAD BAY • PIER 5
"Finest Equipped Boat In Any Fleet"
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Mates: *Joe Ecock & Sons*
BLUEFISHING EVERY FRI. & SAT. NITE, 7PM

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75' Open Boat—Full Electronics
SAILING 8AM EVERY DAY
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65 Ft. • Triple Screw • All Electronics
6:30 AM DAILY
Parkway Fish. Sta., Knapp St. Exit, Belt Pkwy.
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40' Diesel Sportfisherman

Blues (Day & Nite)
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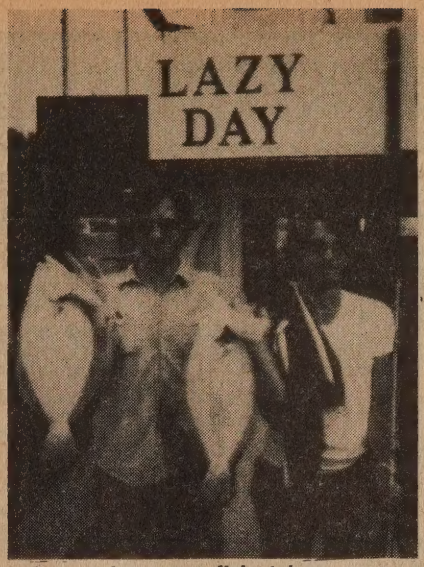
6 Pass. Charter Boat

Don't be a
Water-Litterbug!

Take your garbage
back to the dock!



Shown here are fish taken on a recent charter aboard the Lazy Day ii out of Lindenhurst.

so the north side should have them in a week or so. Tuna still a little spotty but there off-shore.

Captain Tom of the **Sea Horse** sailing out of Popeye's Dock had great fluking at the top of the flood on Saturday and the same on Sunday in the inlet. Tom says fluking was good to excellent all week and that while there were a few midgets, the fish did range all the way up to 7 pounds.

AMITYVILLE

Jonas Bait and Tackle tells of 19 fluke taken at the Moses Bridge on Sunday by Gabby Petitbors and Pierre Autrit up to 4 pounds on the "Jeanne D'Arc" drifting killies and squid. 36 fluke were taken in Fire Island Inlet on Sunday also by another customer. A 50 pound 7 ounce striped bass along with a 38 and 18 were weighed in by Jonas, caught at Democrat Point on drifted live eels last Sunday. There is good fluking in Fire Island Inlet but some days there are lots of shorts. Shark fishermen are getting good catches of bluefish in 70 feet of water southwest of the inlet. Dickerson's Channel has been good for chumming blues 3 to 4 pounds with butterfish for bait. Crabbing is picking up in Copiague in traps. 3½ pound weakfish are being trolled at the Copiague Hole on Number 1 or 2 Hopkins, shrimp jigs and live killies in the early morning by a certain sharpshooter.

SEAFORD

Captain Eddie's Fishing Station reports fluke are picking up with more keepers now. Try drifting the deeper waters between Great Island channel to 3rd Wantagh bridge with killies, sandeels and squid. Small stripers are being chummed at the Wantagh and Meadowbrook Bridges on bellies with the same on the hook, best around slack tide. Weakfish are spotty and taken by accident along with fluke.

Lon Wanser's Bait and Tackle reports fluking is picking up with Haunts Creek and the northeast bank at Meadowbrook Bridge drifting sand eels and spearing. Florence Beach and Four Corners is also producing. Lon Heard of a few bass in the bay taken on bunker and also for clam chummers. One chummer supposedly wrapped up 18 schoolies. Crabs are starting on the Massapequa flats while blues are being chummed south of Cholera. Weakfishing remains spotty.

BELLMORE

Merrick Marine Supply reports lots of markings for big bass in the back but they're just not feeding. The bays are loaded with bait and these fish may be stuffed full as a result. Plenty of shark offshore and the Babylon sharpies are getting them in the N/A buoy area. Plenty of blacks and fluke in the bays and at the bridges. Big Atoms are reportedly taking some bass from the

Al Otto caught this 10 lb. 4 oz. blue on a Cotton Cordell, Big "O" off od Ocean Beach. Photo courtesy of Wet-A-Line Bait and Tackle.

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REYNOLDS MARINE
Located On REYNOLD'S CHANNEL—
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ALL YEAR DRY LAND MARINA • FROZEN FISH & SHRIMP
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With renowned Senior Capt. Jay Porter – 42 yrs. experience fishing L.I. waters

- Captree's newest 1976, 68' fiberglass, 30-knot beauty. Built low to the water for easy gaffing and little roll in rough seas. Built to run and fish like a giant sport fisherman
- New tackle, bait, soda, beer, rod rentals, professional mates, women accommodated, pools on all trips, rainchecks
- No other Party Boat comes even close in speed or electronic equipment, radar, underwater scanners, fish scopes, high voltage fish recorders, sonar to help find the fish.

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TUNA•BLUES•COD•TILE

The action is on the right hand side of the dock by the bait station.

Our speed will give you much less riding time and much more fishing time. Nobody beats us to the fishing grounds.

We cater to those who like to catch fish. We don't specialize in boat rides or suntans. We are not afraid to burn a little more fuel to go where the fish are.

7 AM DAILY EXCEPT SUNDAY **BLUES** with Capt. Sandy

NANTUCKET CANYON TRIPS!

7 PM DAILY EXCEPT SUNDAY **BLUES** with Capt. Jay Porter

SPECIAL TRIP • TILE FISHING

Every Sunday in the Hudson Canyon. Boat leaves 3:00 AM Sunday, returns 7:00 PM Sunday. 125 mile trip one way – $45.00 fare. 30-man limit. Fish are big and plentiful – they taste like lobster. Average weight 15–20 lbs. This trip is for "real fishermen".

Beginners take notice. For a guaranteed spot on the boat, send a $20 deposit to "The Bullet", 75 Sherwood Ave., Farmingdale, N. Y. 11735

Ideal tackle is a 4/0 with wire line on a good stiff rod. Bring large 9/0 hooks with heavy weights. Information 516/694-9039 weekdays 9:30–5:30.

Those without a reservation take a chance. We guarantee action on this trip.

Captain Sandy Mason **516/567-0624** Captain Jay Porter **516/889-8317**

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SAILING DAILY 7&8A.M. FOR **FLUKE**

DAILY AFTERNOON FLUKE TRIPS 3:30 PM

PLACE YOUR FAMILY IN OUR HANDS FOR AN ENJOYABLE DAY'S FISHING IN LANDLOCKED BAYS—NO SEASICKNESS!!!

We Have the Most Helpful Mates to Make Your Day On Our Boats Pleasant!

TACKLE & BAIT PROVIDED

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CAPT. JOSEPH IV

FLUKE 7 A.M. DAILY

LARGE PARTIES ACCOMMODATED FOR

TACKLE & BAIT PROVIDED

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FLUKE 6AM Sat. & Sun. 7AM Weekdays

BLUES 7PM Every Nite

Right Side of Dock by Bait Station
Women & Children Accommodated
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LADY JESS

Clean, Fast, Comfortable 45' Twin Diesel
Large or Small Charters—Bay or Ocean Fishing
—SPECIAL LOW WEEKDAY RATES—
Call Capt. Bill Geiss • (516) 661-6498
BOOK NOW FOR WEAKS & FLUKE

CAPTREE'S FINEST & NEWEST

NEW JIB VI V 7 A.M. 8 A.M.

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Fish In Calm, Protected Waters
Best In Family Fishing—Helpful Mates
Instructions For Beginners

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NEW • CLEAN • COMFORTABLE
65'—Calm, Sheltered Waters—65'

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20 Man Limit On 70 Passenger Boat
Fare $20. Spec. Trips Fri. Nites 7-9 & 7-23
By Single Res. & Small Groups Only
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SPECIAL BLUE CHARTER TRIPS!
7-9 (Fri. Nite) at 7 PM and Every
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These are 20 Man Limit on
70 Passenger Boat — Fare $20
By Single Res. & Small Groups Only
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FLUKE
CLEAN, COMFORTABLE 65' TWIN DIESEL
SAILS FROM RIGHT SIDE OF DOCK
NO CHARGE FOR BAIT & TACKLE
Helpful Crew—Instructions for Beginners
Families & Sr. Citizens Accommodations
—3 GENERATIONS OF EXPERIENCE—
CAPT. GEORGE ROMAN CAPT. GORDON ROMAN
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65' OPEN BOAT—CAPTREE
CAPT. **WHITTAKER**
FLUKE 8 AM DAILY
Capt. Carl Bauer • (516) 669-6273

Now Chartering for the 1976 Season
CAPT. EDDIE B
SPECIAL—NITE BLUES—Lg. & Sm. Parties
WEAKS • SHARK • BLUES
50' Twin Diesel—Full Electronics
All Types Ocean & Bay Fishing
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60' OPEN BOAT—TWIN SCREWS
FLUKE • 7AM DAILY
West Side of Captree Dock
Tackle Available • Families Accomodated
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N.Y. BIGHT Fishing Report

FREEPORT

The **Lucky Strike III** took out a Plainview family group headed by Seymour Berg. The fluke fished the Jones Beach Inlet area and took 62 fish including shorts. The pool-fish was 4 pounds and a sand eel or killie with squid combination took all the fish.

Anthony's Fishing Station reports up to 12 fluke per boat with the high flats drain bridge area producing very nicely. One angler had 7 keepers there on Sunday and 7 on Monday, trolling between the bridge and Guy Lombardo's with killies. Flounders are being taken in Fundy Creek and Swift Creek up to 4 pound weakfish are also hitting on fluke rigs. Sea bass are hitting squid and clams at the Meadowbrook Bridge.

The **Freeport Boatmen's Association** reports bluefish and tuna catches being made 160 degrees out of the inlet about 30 miles off the beach. The **Captain Hall**, the Association's open boat, has been doing well fluking in Jones Inlet all week.

Roy at **Mako Marina** informs us that on Saturday Bob Garraputa on the charterboat **Sundown** had a 336 lb. tiger shark 160 degrees out of the inlet. Tony Froitzhein on the "Misty", a member of Hudson Anglers, had a 310 lb. mako in the same area. Joe Carter on the "Blue Max" brought to gaff a 246 lb. mako, same area. Bob Gallo on Sunday fishing aboard the "Witzy III" took a 58 lb. 1 oz. striper off Nassau Beach on dead bunker in just a few feet of water (4). Joe Masone on the "Debra" took a 44 lb. 4 oz. yellow fin tuna plus tilefish running 20 to 30 pounds along with angler John Demeno. Al Wick and Bill Numan on Saturday took 73 flounder from 1 to 2½

Nick Schiraldi, Nick Ventrella and Bob Andriuolo with 300 lbs of blues [10-15 lbs.] caught on Lupo spoons in Sandy Hook aboard the "Kim".

beaches. Some tuna are being taken at the Canyon.

MERRICK

Jimmy at **Nick's Fishing Station** informs us that a 5½ pound fluke was taken at Merrick Point by Brian Clinton of Merrick on a live killy. The "Marlon" went for a 2 day over night tile trip and came back with 380 pounds of tile, running 94 miles offshore, along with 1 yellow fin tuna of 27 pounds with another tuna of around 50 pounds breaking the line. Another mako was taken by George Sautry on his boat "Big Bird", with John Shepherdson on the rod. A few weakfish were taken at Merrick Point while fluking in the 5½ to 6 pound range along with other accidental weaks. Ned's Creek to Fundy late last week produced well. 26 schoolies were chummed in the state channel on Monday by George Zipper and Bill Fresca just east of the bridge.

BALDWIN

Arthur Street Fishing Station reports fluking very good over the weekend, with 19 keepers out of 50 fish from Reynold's Channel. A hammerhead shark and a dusky were taken by Harvey Silber 25 miles off the beach out of Jones Inlet on Saturday. A 30 pound striper and 3 smaller fish fell to live bunker for sharpshooter Jerry Kircher.

AMITYVILLE

FISH-ON
30' FIBERGLASS SPORTFISHERMAN
Inshore & Offshore Fishing Charters
SHARK • BLUES • TUNA
6 Pass. Limit • Res. Call Mornings
Capt. Nelson Otto Reuss, Mate (516) 842-1914

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TRIED 'n TRUE
NOW BOOKING FOR 1976 SEASON
Specializing In SHARK • TUNA • BLUES
BAIT & TACKLE INCLUDED
Special I.G.F.A. Gamefish Charters
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Mario Saldana, Jr., Charles Payne and Butch Payne with their catch aboard the Peconic Queen III. Mario took 7 fish one of which was a 30 lb. cod and charles took the pool with a 52 lb. cod.

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)ounds in the Freeport River.

Hank Lunde on the "Sea Bee" took a 312 lb. mako, believed to be the largest nako this year with angler Carl Ianno of Elmont on the rod. This was in 130 feet of water, 150 degrees out of Jones Inlet on mackerel. It took 2 hours to boat this ish and Island Marine Taxidermy is loing the head mount.

The **Captain Al** is doing very well on ea bass on a steady basis daily, fishing ocal wrecks, rocks and mussel beds. Friday night, 130 hungry bluefish came ver the rail, but Saturday night was low. Blues are still a hit or miss affair. The **Captain II** is now taking ½ day fluke rips from 8 a.m. to 12 noon and from 1 P.M. to 5 P.M., weekdays only, and the are is $8.

The **Starstream II** continues to bang away on sea bass and the return of this delicious eating species is filling anglers acks on a daily basis.

POINT LOOKOUT

Scottie's Marina reports a lot of small luke but good action. These fish are at ones Inlet from the Old Dock right to he surf. The Tea and Rota wrecks along vith the Meadowbrook Bridge are olding good quantities of blackfish. The atest scoop is that there are big weaks of to 14 pounds in 70 feet of water outheast of Jones Inlet. These fish are ull of roe and have been taken with luefish. Blues are in 100 to 140 feet of vater from Fire Island to Debs Inlet.

ISLAND PARK

Beckman's Tackle in Lynbbrook re-

"Happiness is a big striper". Eileen Hession of Copiague with a 21 lb. bass taken at the Jones Inlet Jetty on a live bunker fishing aboard the "Jawbreaker". Subscriber Club Photo.

John Manuzza and friends with their catch of bluefish aboard the Pine iii. The fish were caught at Nortons Point using bunker spoons.

ports very good fluke fishing from Ducks Point west to the Inlet. Sand eels and spearing with squid combos work best. On Sunday night Marty Atela of Rockville Centre took a 36 pound striped bass from the surf at Lido using a Lupon Deep Runner. There was practically no trolling for striped bass because of Operation Sail.

ATLANTIC BEACH

Captain Ronnie Lepper of the **Kim** and the **Atlantic Beach Charter and Guide Boat Fleet** reports that for every shark hooked and boated, there are 25 boats not scoring at all. Ronnie says this goes from the Mudhole to southeast of Fire Island Inlet to a distance of 40 miles off the beach. The water temperature is ideal for shark but there are no birds, no bait, and no life out there. The water has 10 foot visibility, not the usual 50 feet and is still not blue.

JAMAICA BAY

John at **Yellow Shed Bait and Tackle** reports the Operation Sail held fishing down. Even so, blues were still being taken at the North Channel Bridge with bunker chunks. The Pumpkin Patch Channel was trolled using Pet spoons and 3 to 4 pound blues in good quantities were taken. Fluke of 1½ to 2 pounds are being taken at the Marine Parkway Bridge and throwbacks are at a minimal. Sand porgies have started to come in and they are small at the present. Shrimping for striped bass at the South Channel Bridge has been fairly productive. At the North Channel Bridge there are plenty of eels at night and crabbing is fair.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

Bay End Dock reports good fluke fishing off Plum Beach and inside of Breezy Point jetty. Usual baits are spearing, sand eels with squid. Bucktail-

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ing off the Breezy Point jetty has produced a few striped bass.

Salvo's Bait and Tackle reports no fishing was done on Saturday and Sunday because of Operation Sail but during the week there was striped bass and blues trolled off Norton's Point. Along the sea wall there is still flounders and the porgies have now come in with the snappers just starting.

Captain Fred of the **Amberjack IV** says the bluefishing is still slow but is slowly improving. Fluking however is excellent during his day trips off New Jersey and there is twice as many keepers as throwbacks. Sand eels and spearing are working best for fish from 1½ to 2½ pounds.

The **Dorothy B** reports very good fluking from the Sandy Hook area to South of the Long Branch Pier, with very few throwbacks. These fish are running from 1½ to 6 pounds with 2 pounds being an average fish. Average catches are 10 per man and it looks like a really great fluke season says Captain Kevin.

Captain Huck on the **Helen H** reports that the bluefish action is improving in the acid waters, fish running 3 to 10 pounds, with day and night trips about equal. Things look promising, says Huck. Plenty of fluke offshore of Barnegat.

Captain Tom of the **Pilot II** is doing a job on sea bass and blackfish off the Jersey coast. Sheepshead Bay sharpshooters have been lately loading up on schoolie bass on the new 6 inch Lupo trolling plug in the dark hours. The pink 2 ounce squid put out by Lupo is accounting for 400 pounds of stripers and blues for one sharpie in particular, being trolled with wire at the Tin Can. Lupo will also be coming out soon with two new small bunker spoons, a 4 inch and a 6½ inch size.

Captain Micky on the **Pina III** has been doing a job on big bluefish at Norton's Point trolling these 10 pound man eaters.

Captain Butch on the **Zephyr** has been hitting the Jersey shoreline for sea bass with very good results. These are bigger fish in the 1 to 2½ pound range. There was one good day last week on porgies also, but southwest winds bring in cold water and this is keeping the porgy action hot and cold, although there are continual thick readings.

STATEN ISLAND

Santo's Sport Shop reports nice weakfishing at Princess Bay by buoys 39, 41, and 43. Trolling the Bingle Red Lancer or Banana has picked up 6 to 8 pound weaks and blues of 3 to 4 pounds mixed in. The weakfish are down below and the bluefish are on top. Fluke fishing at the Great Kills jetty into Annadale is good for the boat fisherman as the keeper ratio is one to one. The surfishermen at the Great Kills jetty and the storm sewers are picking up fluke with a 3 to 1 ratio of keepers. Of course these are smaller fish. Striped bass have been jigged with bucktails from Berger Avenue to Hoffman Island. These are 4 to 8 pound striped bass. The blues in the surf have slowed and Penny Beach has been producing mostly throwbacks for the worm fishermen there. Crabs are good to excellent at Great Kills Harbor and a large amount of females with their orange eggs are being taken. In order to insure future supplies of this delicious seafood, these females should be returned to the water with their eggs in tace and untouched.

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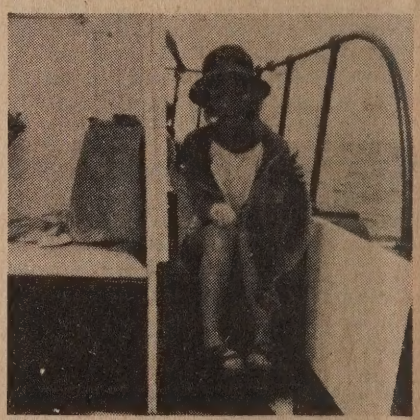

Sharon Macks with fluke up to 4 lbs. caught along Ambrose Channel on the Sheepshead Bay charterboat "chianti".

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NORTH SHORE Fishing Report

ORIENT POINT

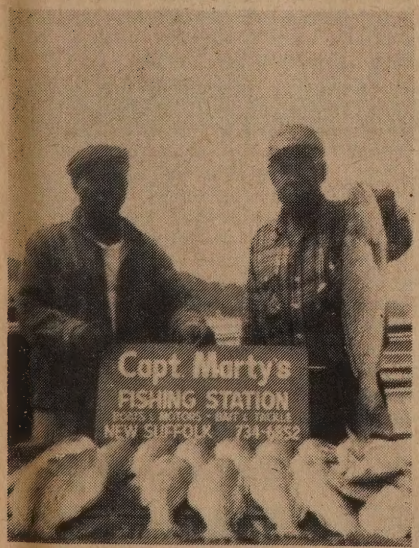
Orient by the Sea Marina reports a lot of fluke fishing action at the ruins with about 60 percent throwbacks. Ray also reports that there is good blackfishing at Gardiner's Island with fiddlers and green crabs.

GREENPORT

Artie Latch reports the **Wilhelric** is still hot on the porgies. Catches on Sunday was 1000 fish for 30 fares. It is getting better every day at Gardiner's.

The **Pooka V** reports very good fluke fishing on Sunday. There was a lot of throwbacks but plenty of action. They had a 16 pound 4-ounce fluke and also an 11-pound weakfish. Porgy fishing is building every day and some areas also have sea bass.

A.P. White Bait Shop reports a lot of striped bass surf activity in the Sound on the Greenport shore. Pencil poppers, Redfins and Rebels are all doing the job on these big fish of 20-pounds and up. There is also some activity in the Plum Gut. Gardiner's Island has plenty of porgies and fluke-fishing is excellent in the rips off this island. Weakfish have been taken in the harbor channel off the Greenport jetty and also at the ruins. Blues are mixed with these fish and can be trolled or cast to with shrimp lures.



Bill Williams and James Glover with their catch of 18 weaks, 40 porgies and 2 kingfish all taken on sandworms and squid in the Rose Grove area. Photo courtesy of Capt. Marty's Fishing Station.

Al Rosch and Frank Murray with 12 weeks to 7 lbs. and 3 bass to 13 lbs. caught trolling off Marshall Field. Photo courtesy of Ronnie'a BAit and Tackle.

SOUTHOLD

According to Dot at the **Southold Fishing Station** there are plenty of porgies at buoy 17 and 18. These are of mixed sizes and are being taken on worm and clam. Weakfish are in the same area but are hitting Salty Dogs and squid. A few blues of 3 to 4 pounds were diamond jigged at Jessup's.

NEW SUFFOLK

Mixed sizes of porgies are reported by **Captain Marty's Fishing Station** opposite the white tower at buoy 22. Good catches of up to 100 or more have been had by many boats. Rose Grove also is another productive spot for boat weaks and porgies. Fishing here with squid has brought in weaks of 5 and 6 pounds.

JAMESPORT

Frank at **Jamesport Bait and Tackle** reports very good porgy fishing over most of the bay. The fishing ranges from the Jamesport beaches on out to Gardiner's Island. Catches of 30 to 140 fish have been made on sandworms or skimmer clams. Very few weaks have been taken at present. If baby squid is available, they may be fished on the bottom for either fluke or weaks and are very productive.

ROCKY POINT

Fantastic porgy fishing from the beach or boat ranging from Wading River to Cedar Beach according to the **Rocky Point Fishing Stop.** Fluke fishing is also excellent and is best done on the outgoing tide about 100 yards off the beach. These fish are being taken from Mt. Sinai to Wading River by anglers using spearing or sand eels with squid.

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Stven Stochla, 10, caught 6 blacks like these out of Cold Spring Harbor on his dad's boat. Subscriber Club Photo.

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Bluefishing is good although it is a hit or miss proposition. These blues are fairly small fish of 5 and 6 pounds. Striped bass fishing is slow but improving. Try trolling tubes during the day or live eels at night.

MT. SINAI HARBOR

Ralph's Fishing Station reports lots of fluke using squid and shiner or killies and sand eels. There are about 3 throwbacks out of ten caught and these fish are mostly of good size. Bill Eversen had a 8 pound 14 ounce fluke using the squid/killie combination. Porgy fishing is coming up and are of mixed sizes. A few weaks have been taken while fishing for this species. Blues are also starting to make their presence known, but catches at present are small.

PORT JEFFERSON

According to John at **Caraftis Fishing Station** fluke seems to be the main stay of the fisherman right now. There are a lot of fluke in the area of buoy 11 to the Port Jefferson inlet. Other good spots are off Miller Place and at buoy 7 by Wading River. A 10 pound fluke was taken by Fred Seney of Woodside. Another fluke fisherman, William Kirchstetter of Forest Hills took a 42 pound striped bass while fluking at buoy 11. Al Greeley of Sound Beach took an 18 pound striped bass also while fluking in the previous area. There are a lot of 4 pound blues that can be trolled east of buoy 9 on umbrella rigs with wire.

NORTHPORT

Bowman's Sporting Goods reports lots of weaks off Callahan's and Makamah beaches in 25 to 30 feet of water. These fish are being taken in just this narrow

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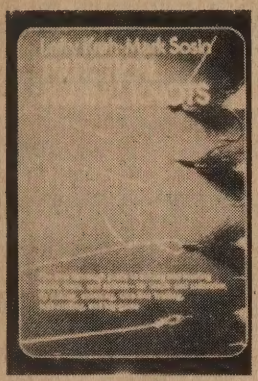

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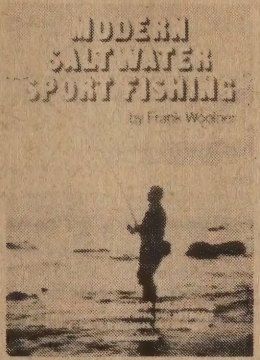

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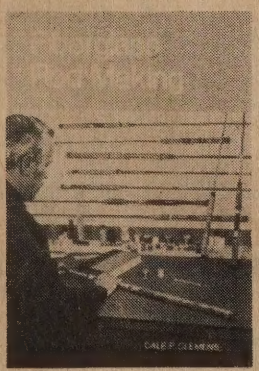

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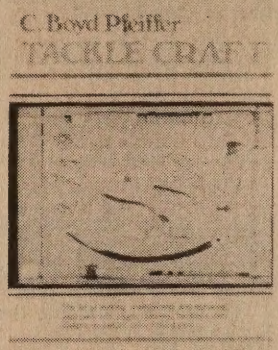

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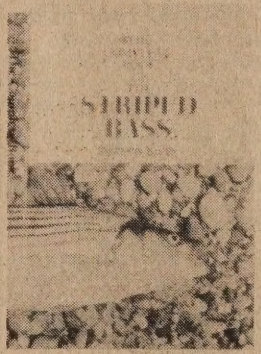

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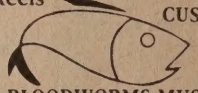
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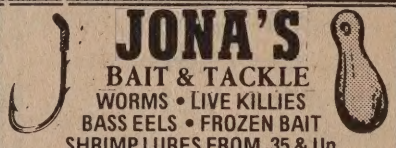
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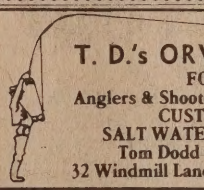
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Steven Brozyna, 12, caught this 6 pound 12 ounce fluke off Peacock Point near Glen Cove on a red surgical tube while trolling for blues. Photo courtesy of Lemps Rod and Gun Shop.

depth of water drifting squid. Weakfish have also been taken by this method but off Callahan's they have come to the top and are susceptible to a cast Hopkins. 2 to 4 lb. blues have been taken on top using metal lures. These scattered fish are scarce. Nightime fishing at the Lilco Power Plant using mackerel tree rigs have brought in double and triple headers of these small blues. Striped bass fishing has slowed dowm somewhat but your best bets are the Coast Guard Station and Diamond Point using worms. There are plenty of bunker and they might also be tried.

HUNTINGTON

Ronnie's Bait and Tackle reports that fluke fishing is your best bet. Crab Meadow and Lloyd Point has produced good fluke catches for those using a spinner fluke rig with squid or shiner. Some of these fish have gone over 6 pounds. Small blues have been taken at Lloyd Point on a popper. Porgy fishing is pretty good off Marshall Field and Crab Meadow using sandworms. There are some small snappers at Centerport Harbor.

Four Winds Bait and Tackle reports the fluke are holding steady and are best at Eaton's Neck, Diamond Point and Makamah Beach. Sandeels and squid fished with a spinner combo is your best bet for these fish. Striped bass have been taken by worm trollers at Marshall Field and in Cold Spring Harbor. At present this is the most consistent method for catching these fish. Weaks of 7 to 9 pounds are sometimes mixed in with these fish during the week. Small snapper blues have been taken at the Lilco plant and at Diamond Point either trolling or casting small spoons.

GLEN COVE

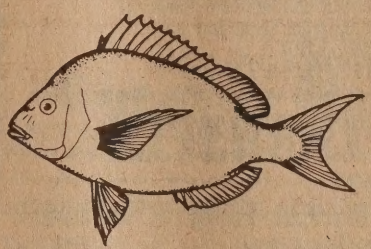
According to John at **Glen Cove Sports** a decent run of weakfish were worm trolled at the Mattinecock area. Blues on bunker chunks have been taken throughout most of the Sound, but John advises you find fresh bunker for these fish. Snappers of about 4 inches are throughout the Hempstead Harbor area.

PORT WASHINGTON

Moreland's Bait and Tackle reports fishing activity was at a minimum due to all the boating activity from Operation Sail. Weakfish were seen in the middle of the sound but none were known to have been taken as of yet.

CITY ISLAND

Jack's Bait and Tackle reports lots of blacks and porgies. A few weaks were taken at Hart's Island using Salty Dogs. Also at Harts as well as Fort Slocum, Sands Point and Turtle Cove are school striped bass. Split tail Rebels and small Atom poppers or a drifted worm have taken these fish. Jack said the bluefish showed up for a day or two and then split. Prospect Point, Sands Point and Mattinecock still hold fluke.



Joe St Pierre of Huntington with a 40 lb. bass taken off Cold Spring Harbor on a live bunker. Photo courtesy of Ronnie's Bait and Tackle.

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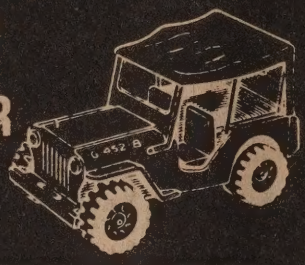

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LIF artist Fred Guardineer showing the 4 lb. pickerell and 2 lb. bass caught in tghe Catskill Mongaup Resevoir. Sixteen other bass plus numerous perch and crappies were also taken during the two day trip. Photo courtesy of host Bill Croissant of the Swinging Bridge Marina.

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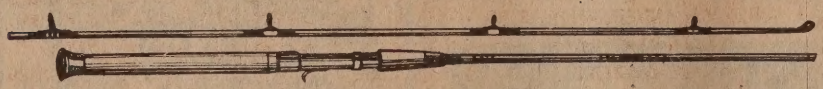

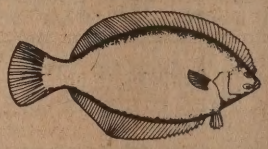

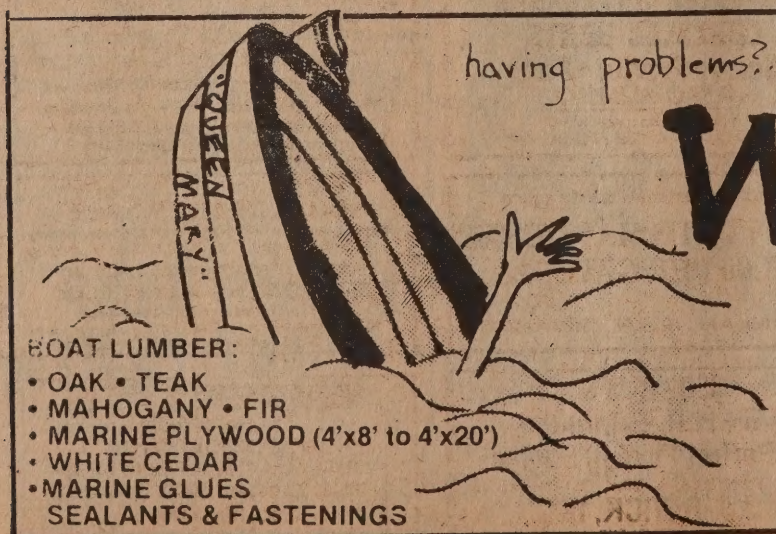

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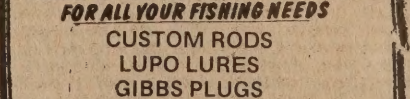

HARBOR LIGHTS
(continued from page 21.)

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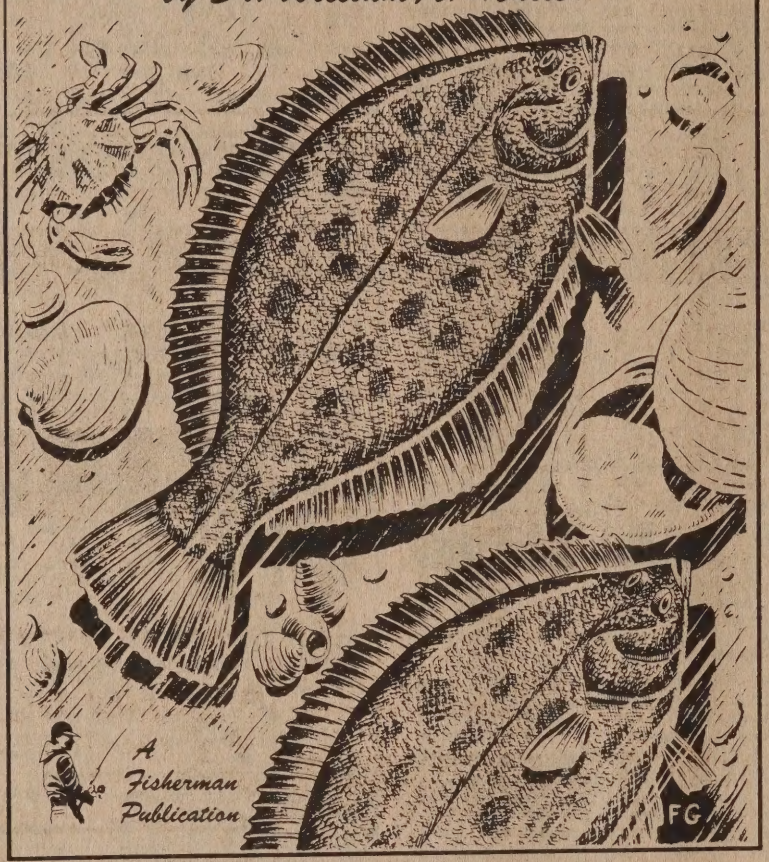

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DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	Breakwater Harbor AM	Breakwater Harbor PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGE-PORT AM	BRIDGE-PORT PM	NEW-PORT AM	NEW-PORT PM	DATE
THUR	5:38	6:12	6:19	6:54	6:15	6:45	7:15	7:35	9:39	9:59	9:10	9:31	5:31	6:00	7/8
FRI	6:39	7:05	7:20	7:49	7:16	7:40	8:10	8:29	10:40	10:55	10:08	10:25	6:27	6:53	7/9
SAT	7:32	7:54	8:15	8:40	8:10	8:30	9:03	9:20	11:33	11:47	11:00	11:17	7:20	7:43	7/10
SUN	8:20	8:41	9:07	9:30	9:02	9:19	9:53	10:09	—	12:23	11:51	—	8:09	8:32	7/11
MON	9:08	9:24	9:57	10:17	9:51	10:06	10:42	10:57	12:36	1:09	12:07	12:38	8:57	9:19	7/12
TUE	9:54	10:10	10:45	11:02	10:41	10:53	11:28	11:43	1:18	1:52	12:54	1:23	9:43	10:05	7/13
WED	10:38	10:52	11:31	11:47	11:30	11:39	—	12:15	2:00	2:30	1:39	2:09	10:29	10:48	7/14
THUR	11:24	11:37	—	12:17	—	12:19	12:29	1:05	2:35	3:05	2:24	2:51	11:16	11:33	7/15

HOW TO USE TIDE TABLES!

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet.....—0 50" is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." —0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6 ½ hours to this figure.

On SANDY HOOK

STATEN ISLAND	+0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	—0 01
Red Bank, Navesink R.I.	+0 48
Long Branch	—0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	—0 18
Shark River Basin	+0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	—0 12
Seaside Park	—0 33
Mantoloking Bridge	+5 34
TOMS RIVER	+4 37
Waretown	+2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	—0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+2 33
Beach Haven	+1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	—0 01
Seven Islands	+0 12
Graveling Point	+1 05
Mullica River	+1 55
Grassy Bay	+1 08
ABSECON INLET	+0 14
Atlantic City Pier	—0 26
Gt. Egg Harbor Inlet	+0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+0 46
CORSON INLET	+0 09
TOWNESEND INLET	+0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+0 45
Cape May Harbor	—0 02
Rehoboth Beach	—0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+0 14
SHINNECOCK INLET	—0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+1 25
East Quogue	+2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+1 18
Indian Reservation	+3 05
MORICHES INLET	—0 56
Smith's Point	+3 28
Harts Cove	+1 30
Potunck Point	+3 35
Mastic Beach	+3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	—0 38
Democrat Point	—0 38
Coast Guard Station	—0 19
Fire Island Light	+0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville	+3 39
Heckscher State Pk.	+3 20
Bay Shore	+2 23
Babylon	+2 12
Amityville	+2 21
JONES INLET	—0 19
Zachs Bay	+1 25
Seaford Harbor	+2 05
Freeport Creek	+0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	—0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	—0 00
Beach Ch. Bridge	+0 38
JFK Airport	+0 26

On BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+0 08
Bayville Bridge	+0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+0 03
Northport Bay	+0 03
Norwalk Islands	+0 10
Smithtown Bay	—0 03
Cranes Neck Point	+0 05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+0 03
New Haven Harbor	+0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	—0 08
Herod Point	—0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+0 19
Horton Point	—0 20
Truman Beach	—0 42
Falkner Island	—0 13
Sachem Head	—0 10
Branford Harbor	—0 07
New Haven Harbor	—0 08
Milford Harbor	—0 07
Stratford	+0 27
Shelton	+1 36
Black Rock Harbor	—0 03
Saugatuck River	—0 01
South Norwalk	+0 10
Greens Ledge	—0 01
Stamford	+0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+0 06
Greenwich	+0 02

On NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+0 27
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+0 12
Greenport	+1 04
Southold	+1 43
New Suffolk	+2 26
South Jamesport	+2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+2 33
Noyack Bay	+2 05
Sag Harbor	+0 59
Gardiners Bay	+0 21
Promised Land	—0 14
Montauk Inlet	—0 25
Montauk Point	—1 13
Niantic	+1 20
Stonington	—0 33
Noank, Mystic River	—0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove	—0 01
Norwich	+0 09
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook jetty	+1 10
Lyme	+1 24
Essex	+1 38
East Haddam	+2 41
Higganum Creek	+2 54

On WILLETS PT.

Little Neck Bay	—0 10
Execution Light	—0 06
Manhasset Bay	—0 01
Hempstead Harbor	—0 11
City Island	—0 03
Rye Beach	—0 28
Port Chester	—0 09
Mamaroneck	—0 08
New Rochelle	—0 24
Davids Island	—0 02

On B'WATER HB.

CAPE MAY POINT	—0 10
Miami Beach	+1 17
East Point	+0 53
Egg Island Point	+0 33
Cape Henlopen	—0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+0 09
Mispillion River Ent.	+0 33
St. Jones River Ent.	+0 57

On NEW YORK

Jersey City	+0 07
Geo. Washington Br.	+0 46
Spuyten Duyvil	+0 58
Ossining	+1 53
Peekskill	+2 24
West Point	+3 16
Newburg	+3 42

On NEWPORT

Sakonnet	—0 10
Tiverton	+0 21
Beavertail Point	—0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Pt.	+0 10
Bristol	+0 10
Warren	+0 21
Nayatt Point	+0 12
Pawtucket	+0 21
East Greenwich	+0 16
Wickford	+0 12
Narragansett Pier	—0 08
Point Judith Harbor	—0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+0 05
Old Harbor	—0 14
Watch Hill Point	+0 44

SUNRISE/SUNSET

7/4	5:29	8:39
7/14	5:36	8:35
7/19	5:41	8:31
7/24	5:45	8:27
7/29	5:50	8:22

PHASES OF THE MOON

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	2nd Qtr.
7/27	7/4	7/11	7/19

The Original Knight
SOLUNAR TABLES
When To Fish Or Hunt

The schedule of solunar periods for the following week as printed below has been taken from the original Knight Solunar Tables. Plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during these times when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for an hour-and-a-half or two hours thereafter, and are in the bold type face. The minor periods are shorter in duration and lighter type.

	AM Minor	AM Major	PM Minor	PM Major
THURS.	2:05	**8:50**	2:40	**9:20**
FRI.	3:00	**9:45**	3:35	**10:15**
SAT.	3:55	**10:40**	4:30	**11:05**
SUN.	4:50	**11:30**	5:20	**11:55**
MON.	5:40	—	6:10	**12:25**
TUES.	6:35	**12:45**	7:00	**1:20**
WED.	7:35	**1:50**	8:00	**2:10**
THURS.	8:25	**2:40**	8:50	**3:00**

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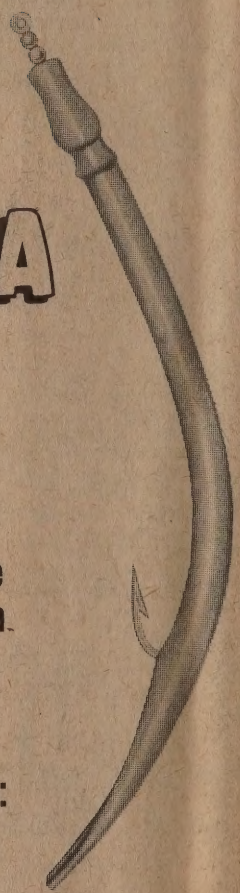

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